Extreme Championship Wrestling

ECW

The Official Maga

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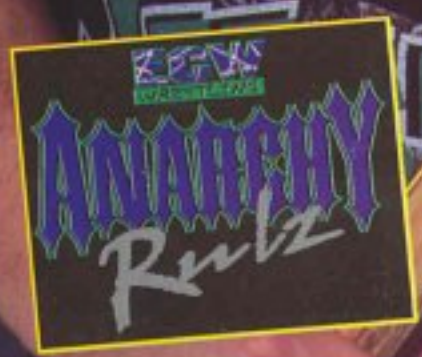
100% Hardcore Wrestling

Cover Story

justin credible STICKS IT TO YOU!



Live On Pay-Per-View!
Sunday, September 19, 1999

October 1999 Vol. 1 Issue 3

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ECW

HOTTER than a flaming table

EXTREME Francine!

More pinups inside

HARDCORE ECW WRESTLING
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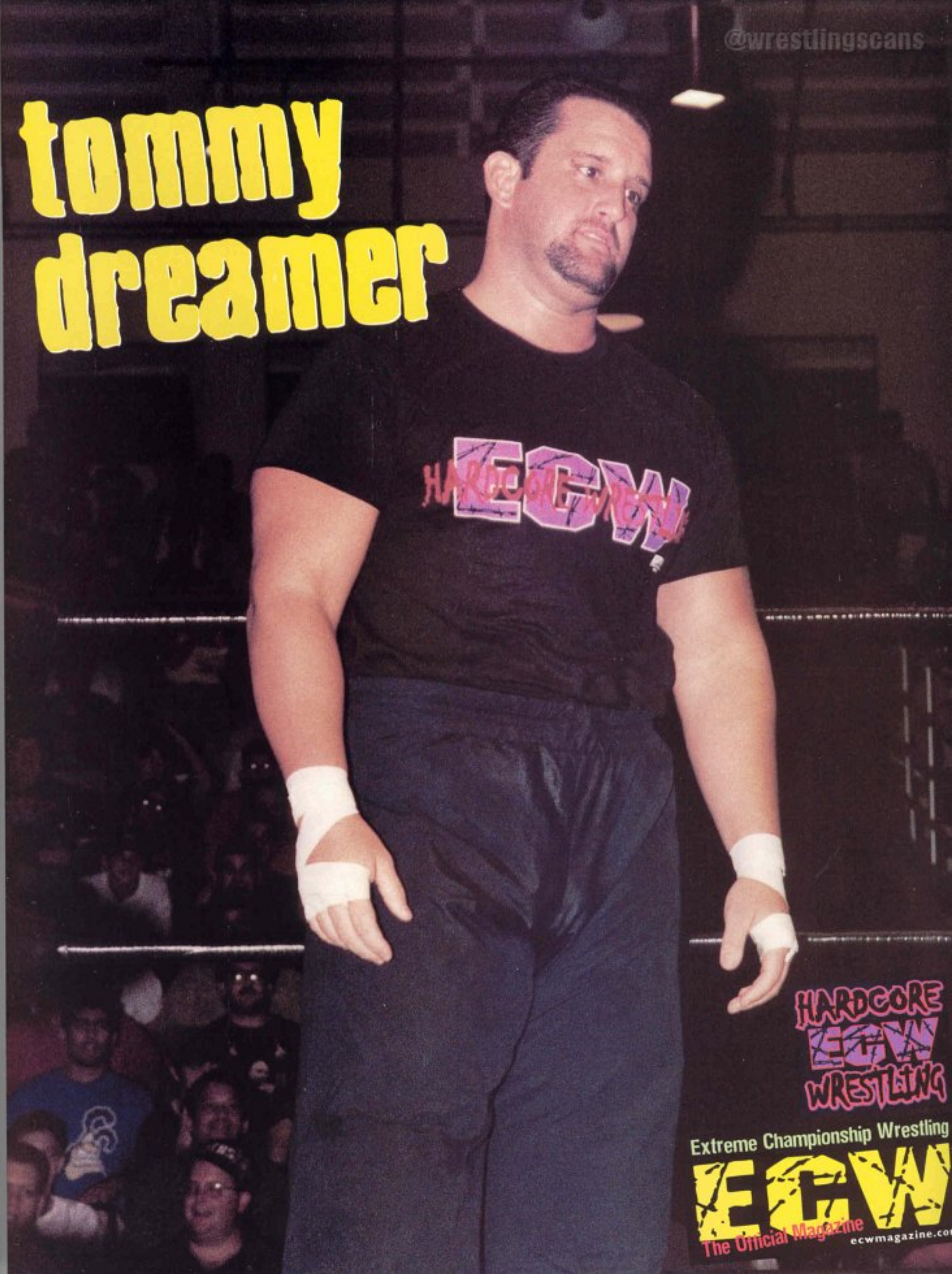
tommy dreamer



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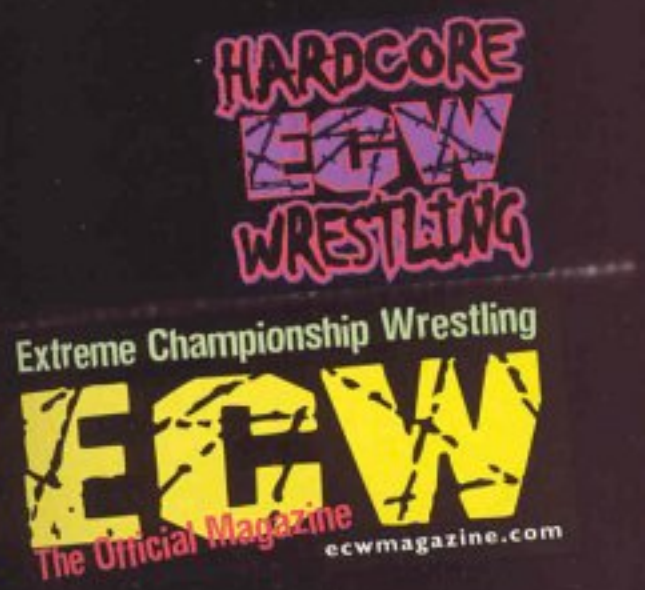

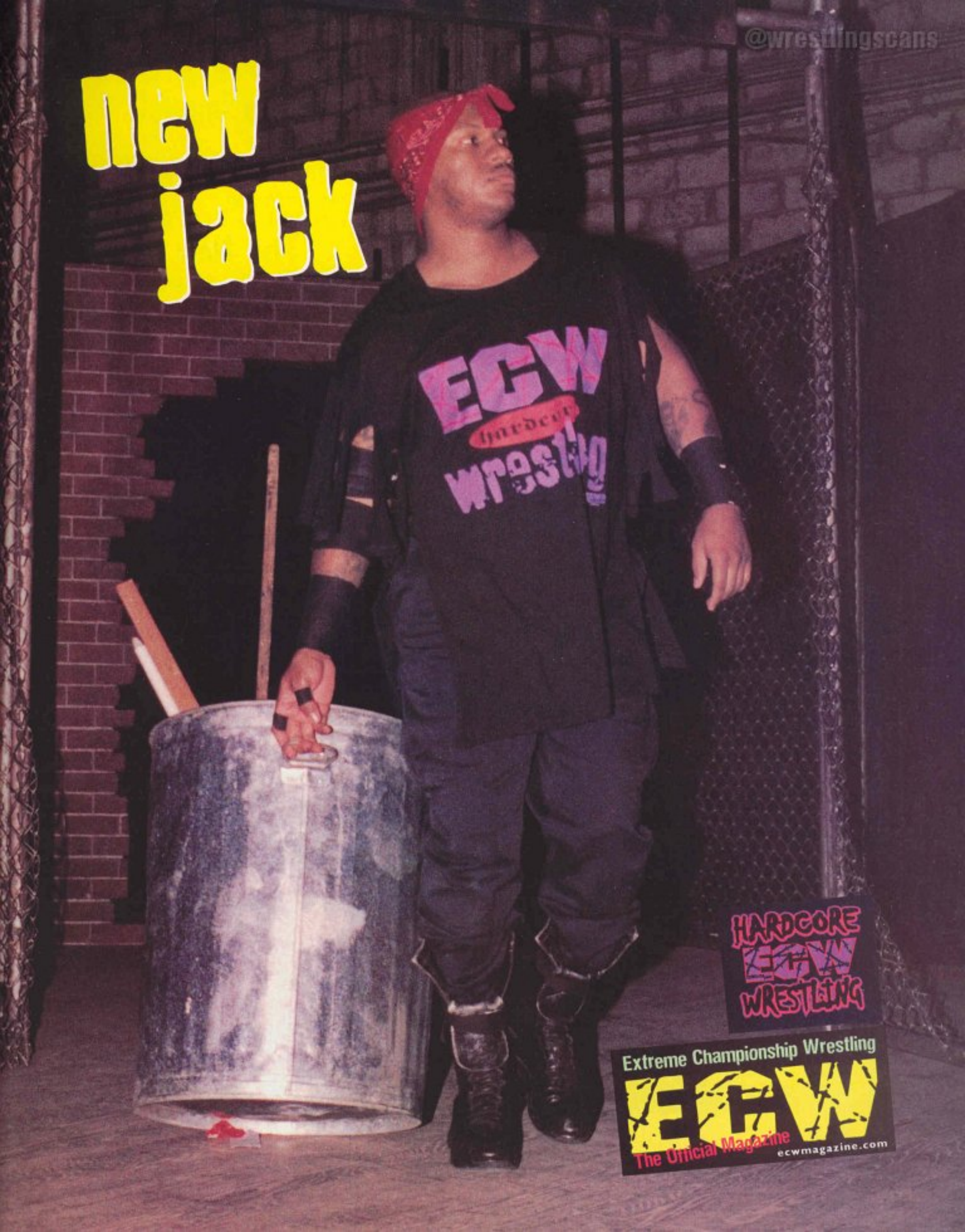
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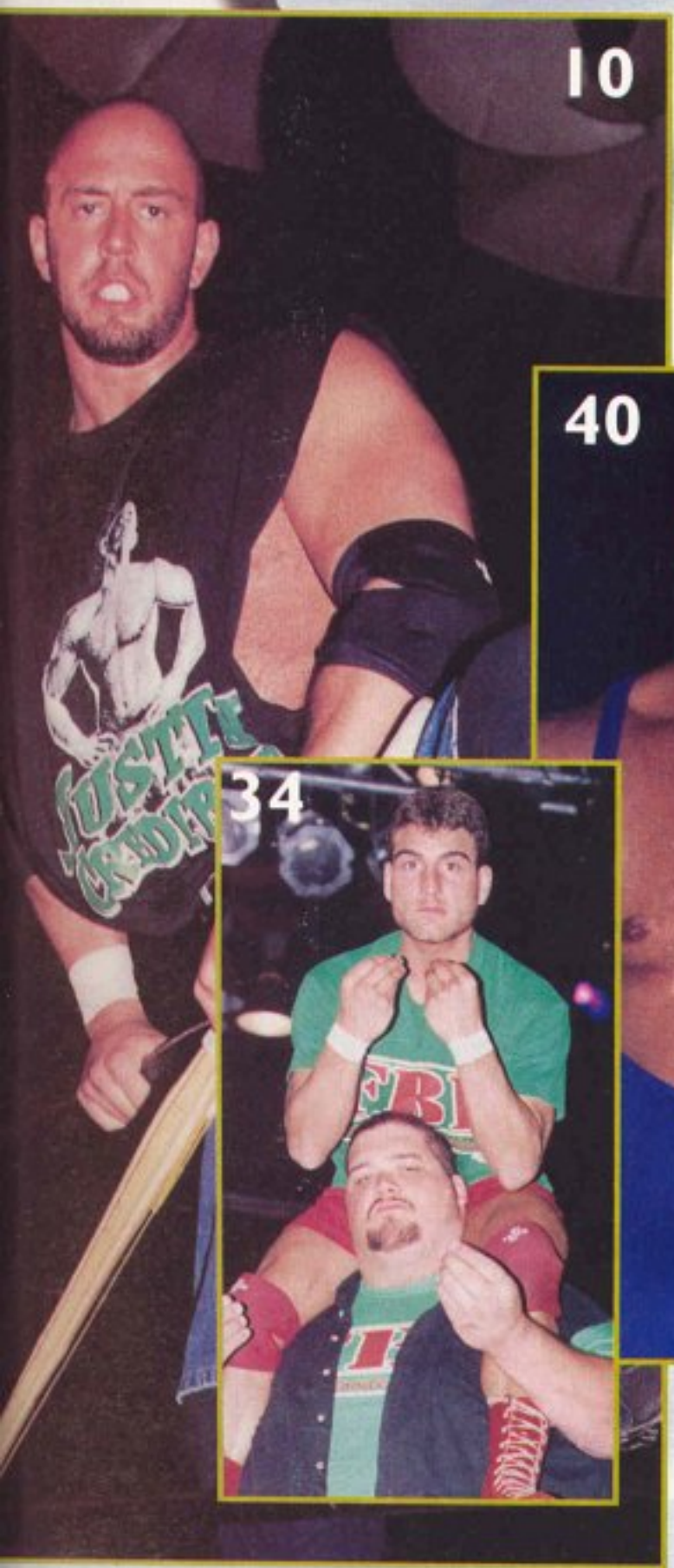

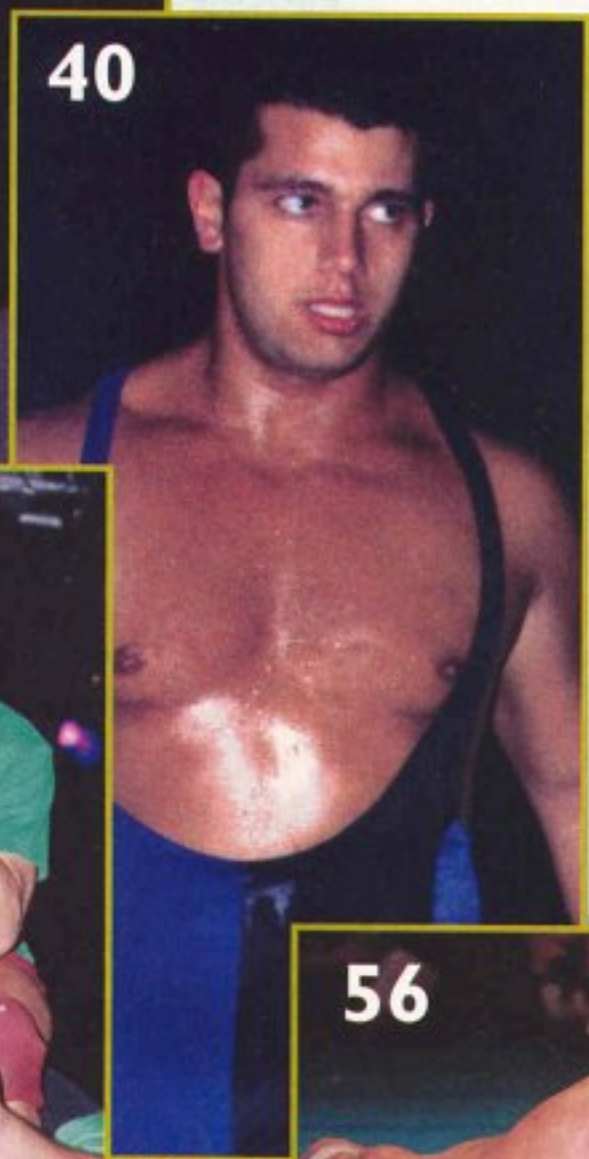

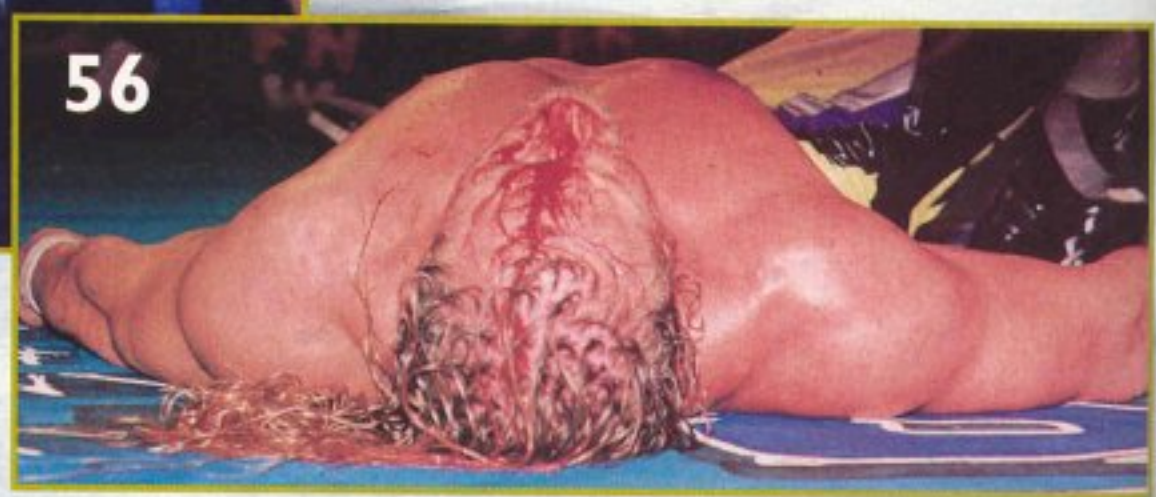

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For more ECW news, visit the federation's official site: http://www.ecwwrestling.com
For all wrestling information, check out: http://www.wrestleline.com

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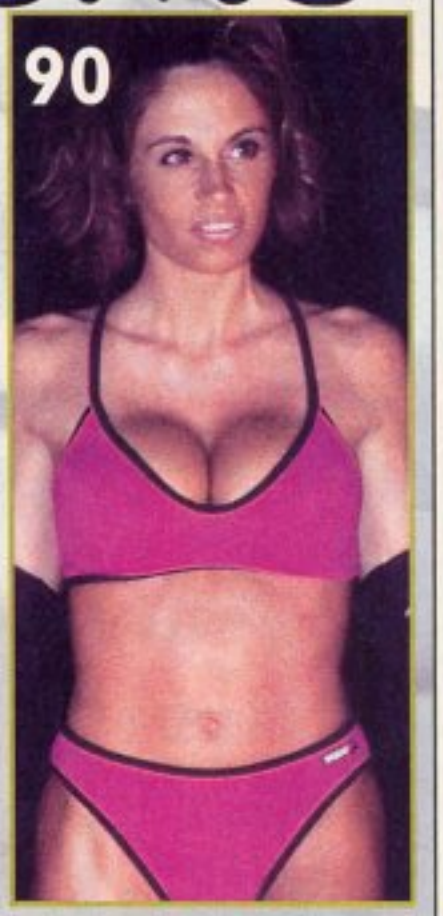

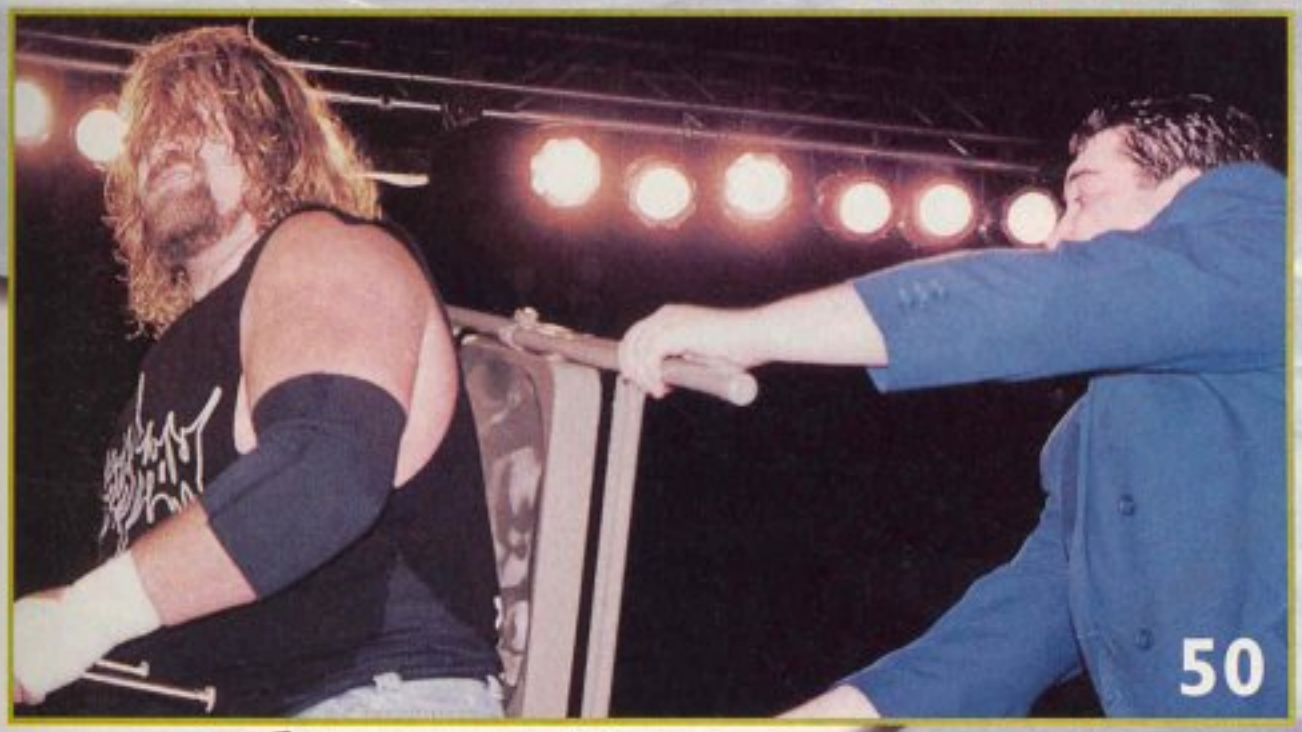

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October 1999 • Volume 1, Issue 3

Extreme Championship Wrestling The Official Magazine

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Publishers of Quality Magazines
H&S MEDIA™ INCORPORATED

2121 Waukegan Road, Bannockburn, IL 60015
Phone: (847) 444-4880 • Fax: (847) 444-1153

Distributed by Warner Publisher Services and ADS Publisher Services, Inc.

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ECW Magazine is published bimonthly by H&S Media, Inc., 2121 Waukegan Road, Suite 120, Bannockburn, IL 60015. U.S. subscription price is $24.95 for one year. The Canadian subscription price is $39.95 (U.S. funds) for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: ECW Magazine, P.O. Box 500, Missouri City, TX 77459

Change of address notice: Please allow 6-8 weeks for an address change to take effect. ECW Magazine is not responsible or liable for missed issues due to an address change.

Back issues may be obtained by contacting the following: ECW Magazine c/o ISI, 30 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302
Phone: (800) 544-6748 • Fax: (201) 451-5745
E-mail: isi@wwmag.com
The cost for a back-ordered issue is the cover price plus $2.50 shipping and handling.
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PRINTED IN THE USA

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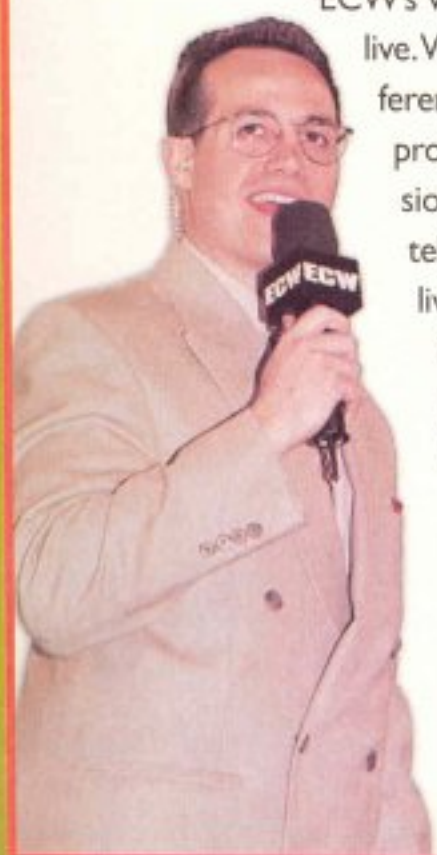
Joey Styles is the voice of ECW's weekly syndicated television program and live pay-per-view events. Styles also manages ***www.ECWwrestling.com*** *and the* ***ECW Hardcore Hotline (900) 737-4ECW.***

ECW CHANGES THE BUSINESS FOREVER

The Extreme Championship Wrestling Hardcore Heaven pay-per-view event on May 16, 1999, was memorable for many reasons. For starters, performing in the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., was exciting because I grew up watching syndicated World Wrestling Federation programs that were taped there. One of my all-time favorite performers, Jesse Ventura, could have been sitting in the same seat 13 years earlier that I occupied for Hardcore Heaven! I could be your next governor!

Seriously, Hardcore Heaven 1999 was very different than previous ECW pay-per-view events. While it may have seemed par for the course to fans, I can assure you that what I saw behind the scenes was not typical. For the first time, ECW put together a seamless live event and proved it could do it just as well as "The Big Two."

Unlike the WWF and World Championship Wrestling, ECW's weekly television show is never live. We tape matches at arenas in different cities, then edit the tapes to produce an exciting hour of television. Only ECW's pay-per-views are televised live. ECW produced three live TV events in 1997, four in 1998, and it will produce six this year. Therefore, as I write this column, ECW has produced only 10 live TV events in the past 24 months, compared to the WWF's 38 and WCW's 90 annual live TV events. The point is, practice makes perfect, and ECW was still far from perfect at producing live TV when it headed into production on Hardcore Heaven 1999.



Until this pay-per-view, the goings-on that regularly occurred behind the scenes most closely resembled a battle royal ... with the participants blindfolded! Video packages were voiced over shortly before the show began and changes to the format were penciled in as the show progressed and relayed to me through a headset as I was calling matches. By the way, if ECW aired the audio that I hear from the production truck in conjunction with my commentary, we could charge $100 instead of $25 and nobody would complain! Ron Buffone, Charlie Bruzzese, Al Bernstein, Mike Vettor and everyone involved with the production of the show who has to deal with Paul Heyman on a pay-per-view weekend are truly the most hardcore heroes at the show. Paul's first career, performing as psycho yuppie Paul E. Dangerously, was no gimmick ... the guy is nuts!

At Hardcore Heaven, everyone seemed happy and calm, even though I had arrived at the arena ready for the typical craziness. With a few minor exceptions, we were completely prepared to produce a live broadcast. Where was I? What happened? I ran outside and checked the marquee ... to my surprise, it indeed read ECW. How could this be? Did the spirits of a past WWF event enter our bodies and take control of us? No. The answer was even more shocking.

ECW was no longer the little promotion that could. ECW is an established and somewhat polished multimillion-dollar professional wrestling company that did not exist only six years ago. It produces more than 125 live events annually, including six live pay-per-views, and has its own official magazine. ECW has changed the wrestling industry forever. ECW has arrived ... again.

I left the arena on May 16 thinking there would be no stopping ECW. The time had come for ECW to show its fans that it could put on top-notch entertainment night in and night out.

So, what's next? You can expect more big surprises from ECW, possibly even by the time you read this. ecw

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Letters to the Editor

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Letters to the Editor

Dear ECW Magazine,

I just wanted to tell you all how much extreme ass you kick. I love ECW. I'm in Chicago, and since you decided to start coming here, I will not be attending any more WWF shows. I need to save my money for you. Your federation is the best. Joey Styles is the best announcer. Taz and Sabu, etc. are the best wrestlers. And the ECW arena fans ... well, they are the very best in wrestling fans. I can't wait for the ECW figures and video game. And the magazine ... Oh My God! (sorry Joey). The magazine is 100 times better than any other magazine on the market. Please keep up the good work. You keep acquiring new hardcore fans all over the world. Stay extreme.

Drew Sauser
rvdrewtaz@aol.com

Dear ECW Magazine,

I've been a wrestling fan for the past 14 years. I've seen promotions come and go, but ECW is the wrestling of the future. I just started to read the ECW Magazine and I really enjoyed what I read. Unlike the WWF mag and the WCW mag, which stink, ECW's mag is for the true wrestling fan. I love the wrestlers of ECW. Every time I watch it I get into the action. I hope one day that ECW will make its way to where I live in Alabama. Keep up the great work.

Ricky Lamont
RLAMONT30@aol.com

Dear ECW Magazine,

I'm so f'n glad that ECF'nW finally got an f'n magazine. I'm f'n saying it's about f'n time the best f'n wrestling organization f'n gets an f'n magazine.

Keian Kazimi
bbk106@aol.com

Dear ECW Magazine,

I just want to say thanks for finally coming out with your very own magazine. I attended the TV taping in Detroit on May 22. It was the greatest wrestling I have been to. I have fallen in love with ECW! People should start showing ECW the respect that it deserves. I think ECW Magazine easily knocks out the WWF and WCW magazines.

Sean Cherwak
Sterling Heights, Mich.

Dear ECW Magazine,

I am typing this letter 24 hours after Hardcore Heaven '99, which I attended at the Mid Hudson Civic Center (Poughkeepsie, N.Y., May 16). And let me say that it was the best damn show I ever saw! I have been a die-hard fan for about three years. I have been to six ECW shows at the Civic Center, and Hardcore Heaven was my first live pay-per-view. And my friends and I had the best time. ECW puts on a great house show as it is and the pay-per-view was just incredible! Every wrestler in ECW puts hard work and effort into it and we appreciate it. Please bring a pay-per-view back to Poughkeepsie soon! The fans in and around Poughkeepsie are ECW 4 Life!

Mark
mdh3232380@aol.com

Dear ECW Magazine,

Your magazine does an incredible job of bringing home the wild world of ECW. The stories and columns are no BS, 100 percent kick-ass! The photos are unbelievable! My main reason for getting your magazine is to keep up with all of the hot, sexy babes in ECW.

Stephen Lee Roldan
Aiea, Hawaii

Dear ECW Magazine,

I am an Indy worker in Florida and I love ECW Magazine! I couldn't wait to subscribe. I really like the historical parts of the mag where you write about the history of ECW and its workers (ECW itself in Issue No. 1 and Tommy Dreamer in Issue No. 2). In an upcoming issue, could we see a history of the Blue World Order? That would be great! Keep up the great work.

Dale Pople
dalzilla@gte.net

Dear ECW Magazine,

ECW is the best wrestling promotion! It is not the biggest promotion, but it is the best! Other promotions like WCW couldn't compare to ECW! The first issue of ECW Magazine was awesome, and when I received the second issue, it was even better! ECW is by far the best wrestling promotion today!

ECW fan at crush762@aol.com

Dear ECW Magazine,

I just got my first two issues of my subscription and I have got to say that this is the best wrestling magazine ever! I have been a fan of ECW since the beginning. It never came on in my area so I bought every magazine that I could with ECW in it, but now I get ECW not only in its very own magazine but also in toys, CDs, pay-per-views and even a game. Keep the revolution strong.

ECW fan at adidasecw1@aol.com

Dear ECW Magazine,

I am writing to say that the ECW Magazine is the best idea in a long time. You see, I live in Wichita, Kan., and we don't get ECW. I first found out about the extreme wrestling promotion in a WWF Chatroom on AOL and have been fascinated since. The reason I love the ECW Magazine so much is the fact that it keeps me up to date. This magazine, and the Internet, are the only ways I can get close to the hardcore action, and I much appreciate it. Plus, though ECW is smaller than the other major promotions, it makes a hell of a lot longer magazine than WWF and a better-organized magazine than WCW. Keep up with the blood, ECW, and you will always be part of the big two in my mind!

Andrew Heuback
newjackishardcore@wrestlemail.com

Dear ECW Magazine,

I have been a fan of ECW for quite a few years now and I can't explain how proud I am to be a fan of such a federation! ECW made the mold of what wrestling is! The big two try to be hardcore, but they're not and never will be! To see ECW has gone so far is amazing. A once low-budget indy fed is now threatening to make the big two into the big three. It's only a matter of time before it happens! ECW is the most underrated. But that will be no more if you keep making the mags, toys, videos and games! ECW! ECW! ECW!

Nick DeVita
Sternfan76@aol.com

Dear ECW Magazine,

I have been an ECW fan since late 1993 and I feel that it is the single best wrestling promotion today. I believe that it is an insult to both ECW and its fans to hear and see WCW and WWF wrestlers employing hardcore tactics in the ring. Not only that, but a WWF Hardcore Championship? You must be joking. ECW has set the hardcore standard for professional wrestling in the 1990s and it will continue to do so way into the next millennium. It is a breath of fresh air to see ECW have its own publication. The first issue was a pleasure to read. My utmost respect goes out to both ECW and its superstars. I'll stay tuned every week and keep reading your fine publication.

Cameron Marshall Pell
PittPlunge@aol.com

Got something to say? We welcome your correspondence. Keep your letters short, and please include your full name, address and daytime phone number for verification (address and phone number will not be published). Send your letter to:

ECW Magazine Letters
c/o H&S Media Inc.
2121 Waukegan Road
Suite 120
Bannockburn, IL 60015

Or, e-mail your letter to:
ecw@hsmedia.com

ECW, TNN ANNOUNCE TV DEAL

CBS Cable's The Nashville Network and HHG Corp., producers of Extreme Championship Wrestling (ECW) have reached an agreement granting TNN the rights to telecast an exclusive one-hour weekly wrestling series beginning Friday, August 27, 1999. The ECW series will be one of the key programs in TNN's Friday night block of programming targeted to teens and young men. The Friday lineup will also include WSL's Rollerjam, PBR's Championship Rodeo and Motor Madness, a popular series featuring demolition derby.

The TNN wrestling series, which will be produced specially for TNN, will feature ECW's roster of popular talent. ECW's ringside announcer Joey Styles will be joined by a co-anchor to be named.

The TNN telecasts of ECW action will be rated PG-TV-14. ECW currently produces lives events for pay-per-view distribution via cable and satellite, and for syndication to a total of 100 television stations and regional sports networks. These local, syndicated shows will continue in addition to the TNN show. These shows will continue the same focus they have now and differ from the shows on TNN, according to ECW CEO Steve Karel.

According to the terms of the three-year agreement, TNN will share in the revenue of all ECW activities, including its TNN telecasts, pay-per-view events, arena events, home video, magazines, CD compilations, e-commerce via www.ecwwrestling.com and merchandising, such as action figures and sports apparel.

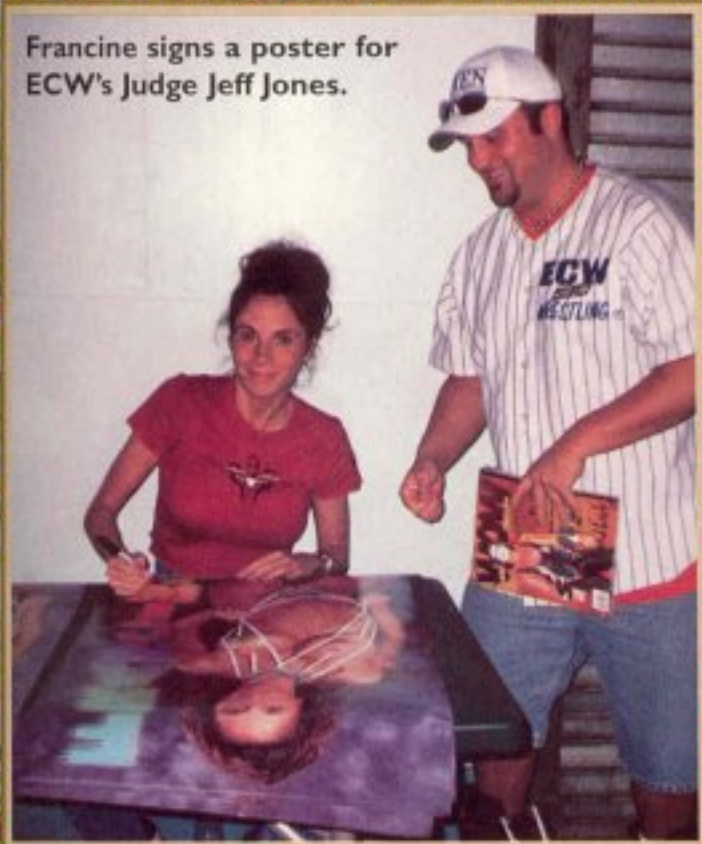
"Wrestling makes extremely popular television, particularly among teens and young male viewers," said David Hall, president of TNN. "With wrestling, TNN can greatly expand the teen and young male audience already attracted to our Friday night sports-based entertainment lineup." TNN is now seen in more than 80 million cable television homes in North America. TNN is owned by CBS and is a service of CBS Cable.

"Our new TNN series gives ECW its first truly national exposure," said Paul Heyman, owner of HHG Corp. and executive producer of ECW. "We are going to develop for TNN an episodic weekly wrestling series that emphasizes the extreme athleticism of ECW's vast talent pool, which brings to the table the wildest action and most compelling storylines in the genre of sports entertainment."

NEW JACK FOUND NOT GUILTY AS CHARGED

Jerome Young, professionally known in ECW as New Jack, was acquitted in a Massachusetts court of assault charges stemming from a November 1996 ECW show. Young had been accused of assault and assault with a deadly weapon by Erich Kulas, a Rhode Island resident who suffered a cut requiring 50 stitches during a match against New Jack in Revere, Mass.

Kulas had been filling in for Axl Rotten in a match with D-Von Dudley against The Gangstas when he received the injury. His family had been pursuing civil charges and decided to file criminal charges against Young. After hearing testimony from Young, Kulas, Kulas' father, Steve Kulas, ECW's Tommy Dreamer, D-Von Dudley and Paul Heyman, midget wrestler Tiny and independent wrestler El Diablo, the six-person jury acquitted Young.



Francine signs a poster for ECW's Judge Jeff Jones.

Francine signs posters for ECW Magazine

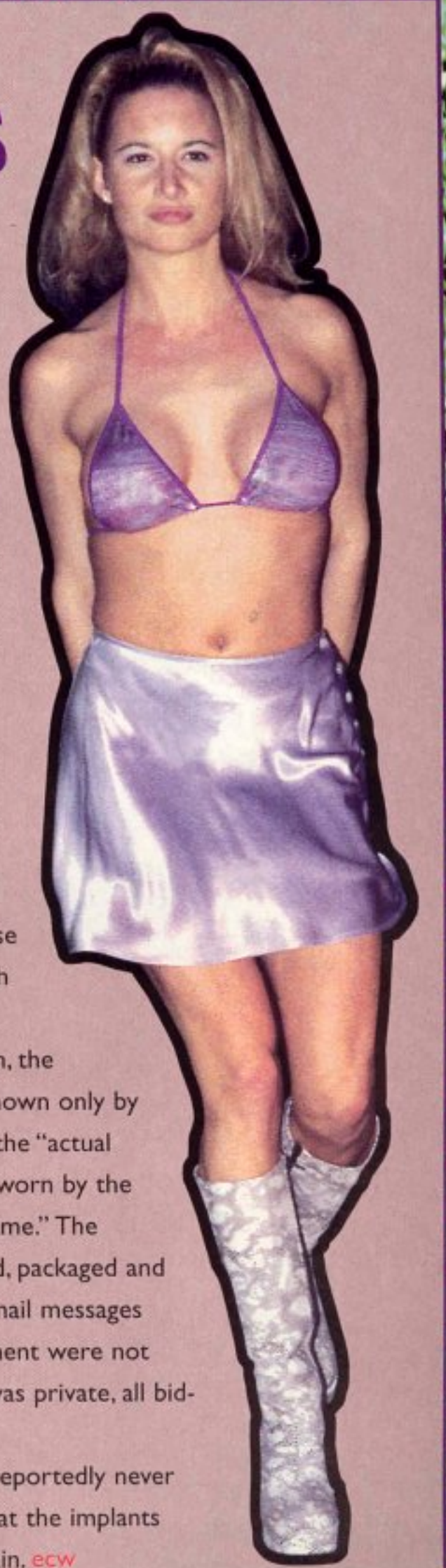
Before Extreme Championship Wrestling's first show in Chicago, ECW vixen Francine signed 100 posters to be given away to magazine subscribers in a promotion to be announced soon. The 22" by 34" posters featured Francine in a bikini. The shot was taken on location in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in April 1999. Another photo from that shoot appears on the back cover of the August 1999 issue of WOW Magazine.

Francine was thrilled with the appearance of the posters and was happy to sign them for the magazine.

Later that evening, Francine made her Chicago debut, coming out with Tommy Dreamer during Justin Credible's "discussion" with Jerry Lynn and Lance Storm.

For a closer look at the poster, see the ECW Magazine subscription ad on page 85.

SYTCH IMPLANTS UP FOR BID



Internet auction participants found an interesting item in the general sports memorabilia section of eBay (www.ebay.com) in late May and early June.

Item No. 108269441 on the Internet auction site was the breast implants of Tammy Lynn Sytch from her days as Sunny in the World Wrestling Federation. The seller, located in Freehold, N.J., set the minimum bid at $2,000.00 on May 23. At the close of the auction on June 2, the high bid was $11,999.99.

According to the description, the implants, to be sold by a user known only by the eBay name "blondes," were the "actual saline breast implants surgically worn by the one and only 'Sunny' of WWF fame." The implants apparently were "sealed, packaged and autographed upon removal." E-mail messages sent to "blondes" seeking comment were not returned. Because the auction was private, all bidders' identities were protected.

The winner of the auction reportedly never sent payment, so it was likely that the implants would be put up for auction again. ecw

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DEEP IMPACT

JUSTIN CREDIBLE MAKES HIS PRESENCE FELT

BY STEVE ANDERSON

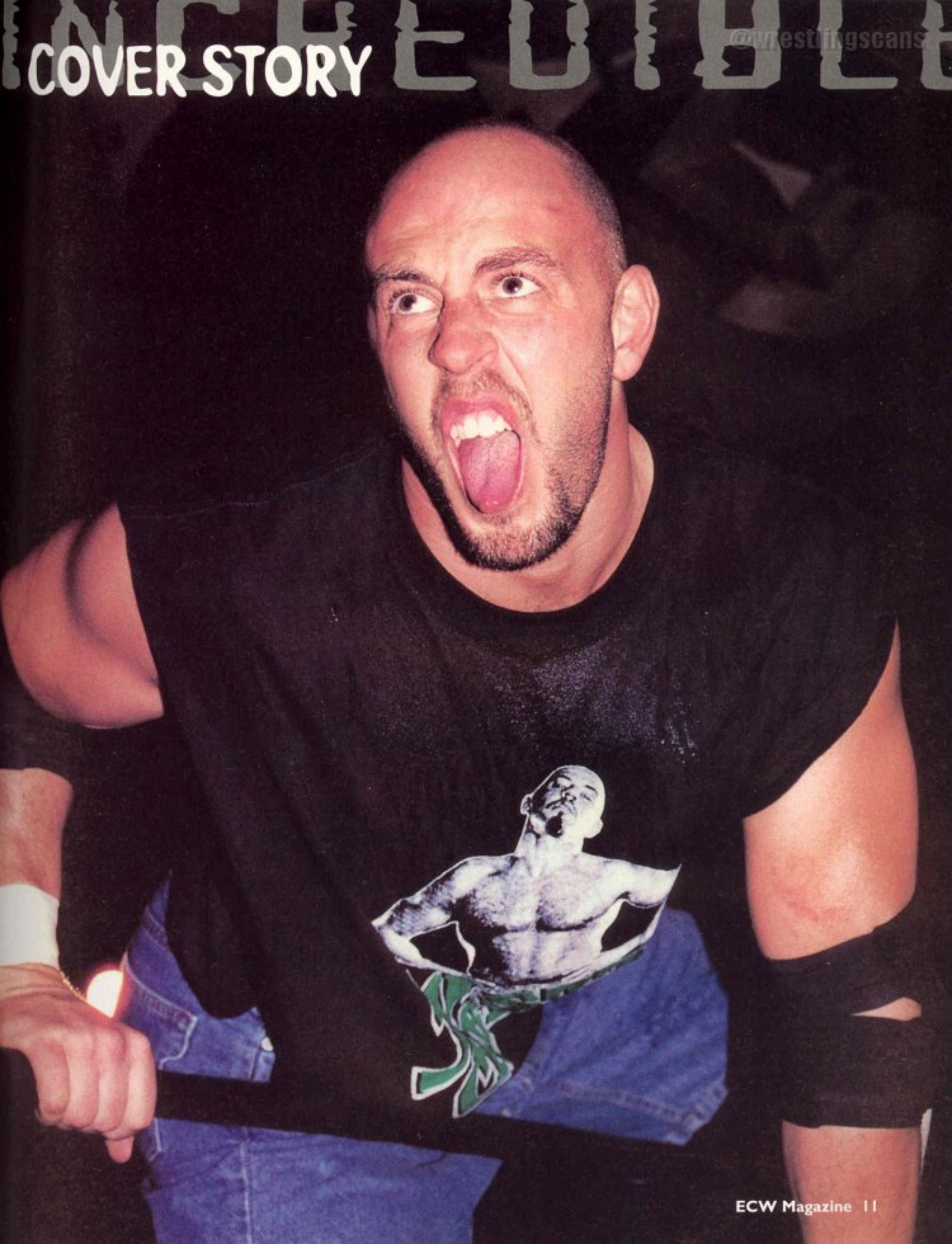
In 1993, Justin Credible entered the World Wrestling Federation under the name PJ Walker. Few noticed the young wrestler as he plied his trade in an effort to move up that all-important ladder of title contention. His first impact would be when he pinned Mike Rotundo – aka Irwin R. Schyster – in one of his initial bouts.

PJ Walker would reappear the following year, this time under a yellow mask and using the moniker Aldo Montoya, the Portuguese Man Of War. He began to turn heads by chalking up victory after victory, and key wins would lead to offers to join the ranks of rule-breaking "cliques."

Still something was holding him back. Credible was winning matches, but he was also at the losing end of some vicious beatings.

He was not making an impact.

By 1997, Credible was finishing his third year in the WWF, yet title ▶



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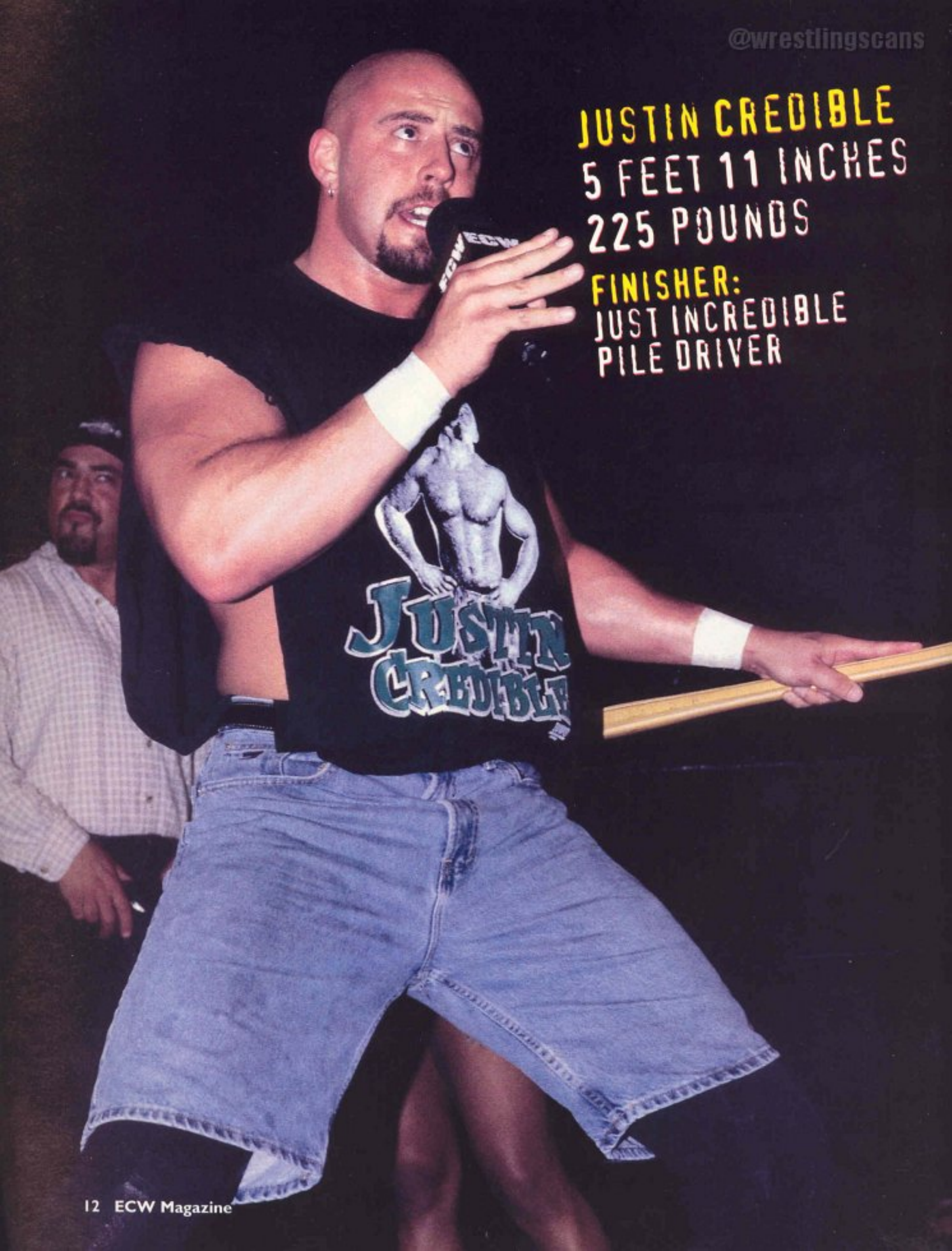

JUSTIN CREDIBLE
5 FEET 11 INCHES
225 POUNDS
FINISHER:
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PILE DRIVER

@wrestlingscans

shots and main event bouts were not coming his way. Frustrated and looking for a change, he traveled down to the now-defunct USWA territory.

Wolfie D and JC Ice of PG-13 liked what they saw in Credible and asked him to join their team. Walker emerged weeks later as PG 187 (which is the police code for murder). Credible would prove valuable to the duo, interfering in their matches and even filling in when JC Ice was injured.

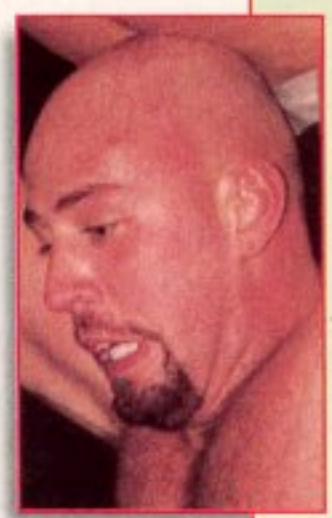
In August of that year, Credible decided to make another move, this time to Extreme Championship Wrestling. He brought along his PG-13 cohorts, but the trio was less than successful. The wrestlers' stint would not last long, as Wolfie D and JC Ice soon left the promotion. Credible, however, decided to stay.

He had found a home.

CREDIBLE

By the end of 1997, Justin Credible had traveled the proverbial "highways and byways" of professional wrestling. He had been under the bright lights of the WWF and part of the Memphis wrestling tradition. It was time to commit. It was time to make an impact.

"(ECW) offered me the freedom to basically be who I wanted to be," Credible said. "The freedom of going balls to the wall, full bore with a full head of steam to make or break it on your own. There were less restrictions than (with) any other place."



After the departure of PG-13, Credible was left to fend for himself in a strange area. Jerry Lynn soon became a friend and ally to Credible, and the two saw potential in a possible tag team.

"When we first met, it was very interesting," Credible said. "We felt a chemistry. He is a phenomenal technical wrestler, and I felt that I could hang with Jerry Lynn at the time because he had a great reputation."

Their teaming on Sept. 20, 1997, did not make headlines, nor did it provide fodder for magazine covers. Their match was certainly not a main event, and it would not even have been memorable had longtime ECW manager Jason not emerged from the dressing rooms.

Jason caught Credible's attention. He had something to say to the young wrestler. The two quietly conversed while Lynn was in the ring. Something Jason said convinced Credible to walk to the back with the self-proclaimed "Sexiest Man on Earth." He left Lynn to fend for himself against two men.

And what did Jason say that motivated Credible into abandoning his partner?

"He told me he knew ECW," Credible recalled. "He knew the ropes. He would show me how to get to where I wanted to be. He had been there for a while and he knew the system. He won titles and he saw me being a potential champion. He could get me there."

Later that night, Jason re-emerged to address the ECW fans. He informed announcer Joey Styles ▶

Justin Credible's Pay-Per-View Appearances:

November to Remember (1997)
Defeated by Mikey Whipwreck

Living Dangerously (1998)
Defeated by Tommy Dreamer

Wrestlepalooza (1998)
Defeated Mikey Whipwreck

Heat Wave (1998)
Defeated Jerry Lynn

November to Remember (1998)
With Jack Victory, lost to Tommy Dreamer and Jake Roberts

Guilty As Charged (1999)
Defeated Tommy Dreamer

Living Dangerously (1999)
With Lance Storm, lost to Tommy Dreamer and Shane Douglas

Hardcore Heaven (1999)
No contest with Sid

Pay-Per-View Record Through May 1999: 3-4-1

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and the audience that he was unleashing a new wrestler. Out walked the man formerly known as PG 187 – Justin Credible, a 23-year-old "kid."

Not to mention an impact player.

Although the name was different, the individual that turned on Jerry Lynn was the same. Humiliated from the earlier loss and fuming with anger, Lynn immediately challenged Credible to a match. It would be the first in a long series of high-impact bouts between the two and a feud that would test the limits of both wrestlers. The feud would be more about ability than blind rage.

Credible ultimately dominated the feud with Lynn. The bouts were competitive, but something bigger was happening. He longed to make an impact in his new "home." Perhaps by embracing the moniker and attitude of Justin Credible, the man once known as PJ Walker, Aldo Montoya and PG 187 had finally found the identity he had sought. He was being himself, not some promoter's brainstorm.

CREDIBLE

Determined to validate his "impact player" status, Credible targeted ECW's Triple Crown winner, Mikey Whipwreck, who represented the greatest threat to him. Against Whipwreck, Credible needed to make a clear statement.

During one of their many bouts, Whipwreck's knee gave out in the middle of the match. Most wrestlers, no matter what philosophy they embrace, would stand back from an opponent writhing in pain, but not Credible. There is no impact in such inaction. He immediately attacked his fallen foe, pummeling Whipwreck and giving him two "That's Incredibles," his trademark piledriver. Wrestlers spilled into the arena to help Whipwreck. Credible and his manager, Jason, headed for higher ground.

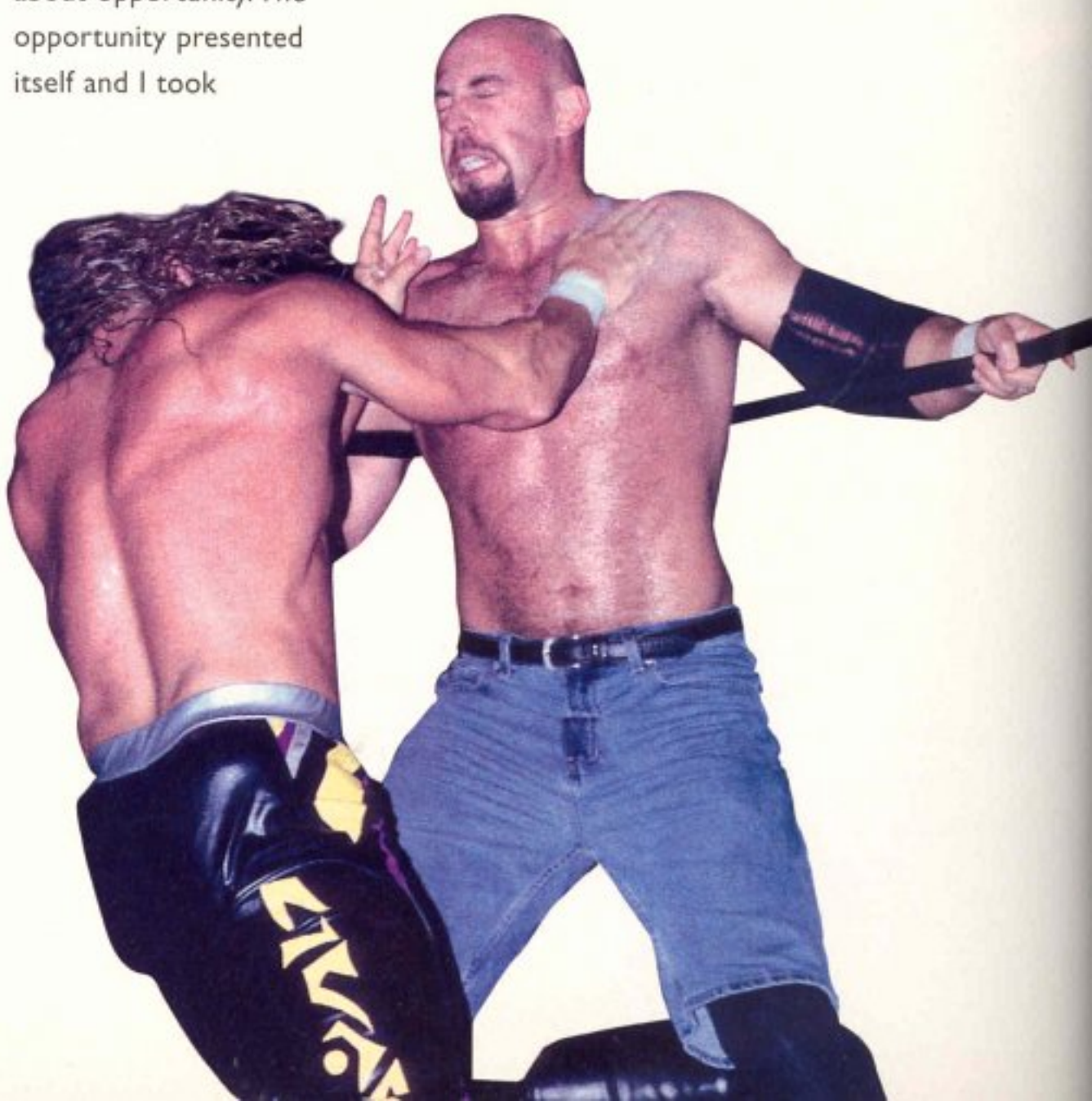
Many wondered afterward why Credible had done it. What purpose did it serve to attack an already-defenseless opponent?

Credible responded, "It was the opportunity to excel. I'm all about opportunity. The opportunity presented itself and I took advantage of the situation. I felt that it was the opening I needed to make a name for myself. And I figured if I would be relentless to take out the knee and not let him go, people would step back and would say 'This kid means business.' "

Indeed, people were saying just that. Justin Credible had made his first, significant impact in ECW.

CREDIBLE

With Whipwreck injured, Credible continued to build his winning record with key victories over Chris Chetti, Super Nova, Great Sasuke, Spike Dudley and John Kronus. But there seemed to be some unfinished business that Credible needed to attend to. ▶



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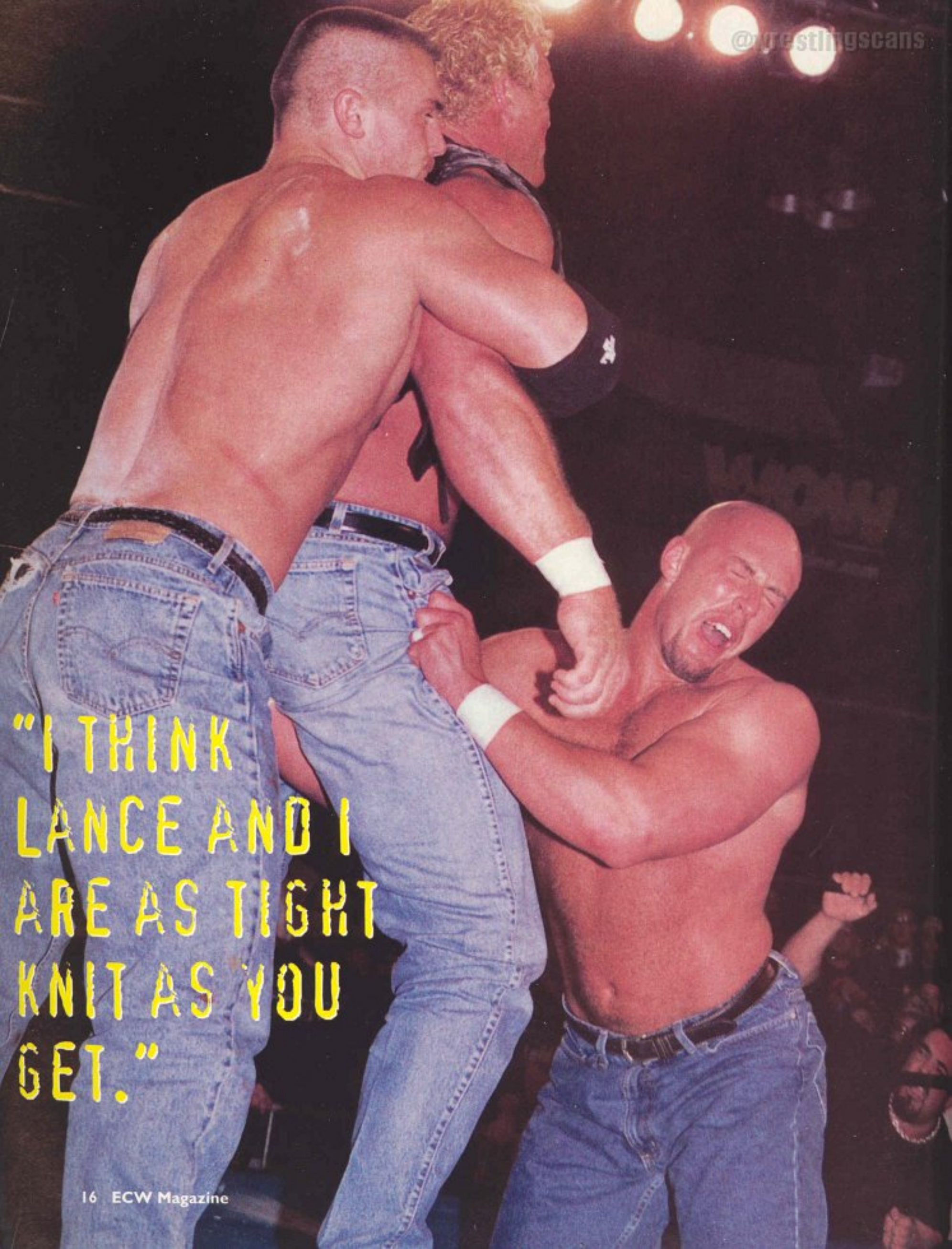
"IT WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEL. I'M ALL ABOUT OPPORTUNITY."



"I THINK LANCE AND I ARE AS TIGHT KNIT AS YOU GET."

That unfinished involved Tommy Dreamer, who had ended Credible's undefeated streak.

The normally raucous crowd at ECW Arena in Philadelphia was having a rare solemn moment. The Sandman, with Tommy Dreamer in tow, had just announced that Dreamer's grandfather had passed away. During a 10-bell salute to Dreamer's late grandfather, Credible strode to ringside and crawled through the ropes. He grabbed a microphone and said to Dreamer, "I'm sorry your grandfather died."

There was a long pause. The fans were in shock. Even Credible seemed to set aside his differences with Dreamer during this difficult time.

How untrue that was.

"I wish it was you instead of your worthless grandfather," Credible added.

Dreamer was livid. The locker room emptied as nearly every ECW wrestler tried to get at Credible for his heinous words toward a despondent man. Jason was able to escort Credible out safely, but the two had words that eventually led to blows.

Another impact.

"It's all about controversy," Credible said. "Justin Credible knows that if he wants to be an impact player that he is going to have to target the biggest and the best. What a situation, a perfect opportunity to shock the wrestling world to go after Tommy Dreamer at such a delicate moment. I guess it worked."

Credible's words were fuel for Tommy Dreamer's fire. For the first time in his career, Credible was on the losing end of several matches against Dreamer. His hateful words echoed in Dreamer's ears as he defeated Credible in bout after bout.

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CREDIBLE

For many fans, the Sandman represented the soul of ECW. More than anyone, he embraced the entire "hardcore" concept by putting his well-being on the line at every ECW show. Credible coveted that reputation and envied Sandman's "impact." He knew he would have to strip Sandman's reputation to gain it for himself.

Their feud was brief, but very bloody, and it would return Credible to his dominant ways as he racked up impressive victories. Just as their feud was about to heat up, the Sandman left ECW and signed with World Championship Wrestling.

"I took his game to him. I did what I could. I survived," Credible said. "As far as the Sandman leaving ECW, he knew that his time was up. Sooner or later, his time at the top would be gone, and he was either going to step aside or be forced out, by yours truly."

With the Sandman gone from ECW, Credible started to brandish ▶

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the wrestler's trademark Singapore Cane like it was a trophy. He bragged about running the Sandman out of ECW and boasted that he had become the "Extreme Icon."

Not to mention an impact player.

CREDIBLE

Tommy Dreamer took exception to Credible's antics, resenting Credible's distortion of reality. Credible's claims that he drove the Sandman out of ECW were too much for Dreamer to

bear, and their feud was reborn, but there was an added ingredient to Credible-Dreamer Part 2.

Terry Funk.

At that time, Funk's fatherly relationship with Dreamer was on the skids. Dreamer had selected Jake Roberts to be his mystery partner at November to Remember 1998. To say the least, Funk felt slighted. He attacked Dreamer, who refused to fight with the man he once considered his father. In the process, Funk selected a new protégé, Justin Credible.

With Funk's guidance, Credible had a psychological advantage over Dreamer. The two would meet in violent altercations, with Funk usually playing a role in the outcome. The culmination came at Guilty As Charged when Funk attacked Dreamer during a "Stairway to Hell" match, allowing Credible to pick up a key victory.

Little would be resolved in this feud, but through Dreamer Credible had found his next target. If he was able to destroy this wrestler, it would solidify his status as an "impact player."

CREDIBLE

"The Franchise" Shane Douglas had recently dropped the world title to Taz, and rumors abounded that he was ready to retire. ECW has had its share of historical moments, but on that night, the audience would watch Douglas pass the torch to a man he would deem the new "Franchise."

Credible thought he should be the new Franchise, as did his new ally, Lance Storm. But Douglas shocked everyone in selecting Tommy Dreamer, longtime enemy of Credible.

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Livid about the slight, Credible confronted Douglas in the ring. Anger consumed him as he swung at Douglas with the Singapore Cane. Douglas moved, and the cane struck Francine. That sickening action ignited Credible's most important feud to date, a feud to determine who was truly the Franchise of Extreme Championship Wrestling.

While the two had encounters in the ring, including a tag team match at the Living Dangerously pay-per-view on March 21, 1999, in which Credible teamed up with Storm to face Dreamer and Douglas, their feud would never reach its seemingly inevitable culmination. The battle was settled not in the ring, but in the front office of ECW.

Citing contractual issues, Shane Douglas never showed up to face Credible at Hardcore Heaven 1999, and the returning Sid served as his replacement.

"Shane taught me, if nothing else, how to take it to the next level. It was a shame we didn't get to finish what we started and, Shane Douglas, one day maybe we will," Credible said in what amounted to a near-tribute to the departed wrestler.

"He's a great performer. He's a great athlete. He's a great wrestler. But, he's not just the coolest, he 's not just the best ..."

You know the rest. ▶

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"I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF A FRANCHISE. I DON'T WANT TO BE A FRANCHISE. THERE WAS ONE FRANCHISE."

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CREDIBLE

Credible has not faced only ECW wrestlers. He also has battled men who embody the spirit of the Philadelphia-based promotion. It should also be noted that most of these men headed for other organizations immediately after feuding with Credible. So, by surviving battles with men who are now absent from ECW, does Credible consider himself a "Hardcore Icon" or a "Franchise?"

"I don't consider myself a Franchise. I don't want to be a Franchise. There was one Franchise," Credible said. "It's like when Shane Douglas dropped the NWA title. He didn't want the title. I don't want the title 'Franchise.' I'm better than that. I don't want to be the 'Extreme Hardcore Icon.' Justin Credible, bottom line, is the impact player in ECW."

For a man with so many enemies, Credible has maintained alliances with managers (Jason and Cyrus), valets (Chastity and Nicole Bass) and, of course, wrestlers, specifically Lance Storm.

But with Storm rising in the ranks of ECW as well, will their paths cross as hated opponents? They have wrestled before in three-way matches, but what about a bloody battle with Storm?

"I think its inevitable," Credible said. "I think Lance and I are as tight knit as you get. There is no question about the competitive edge that Lance and I have toward each other. As much as we do like each other and get along, there is a definite competitive thing going."

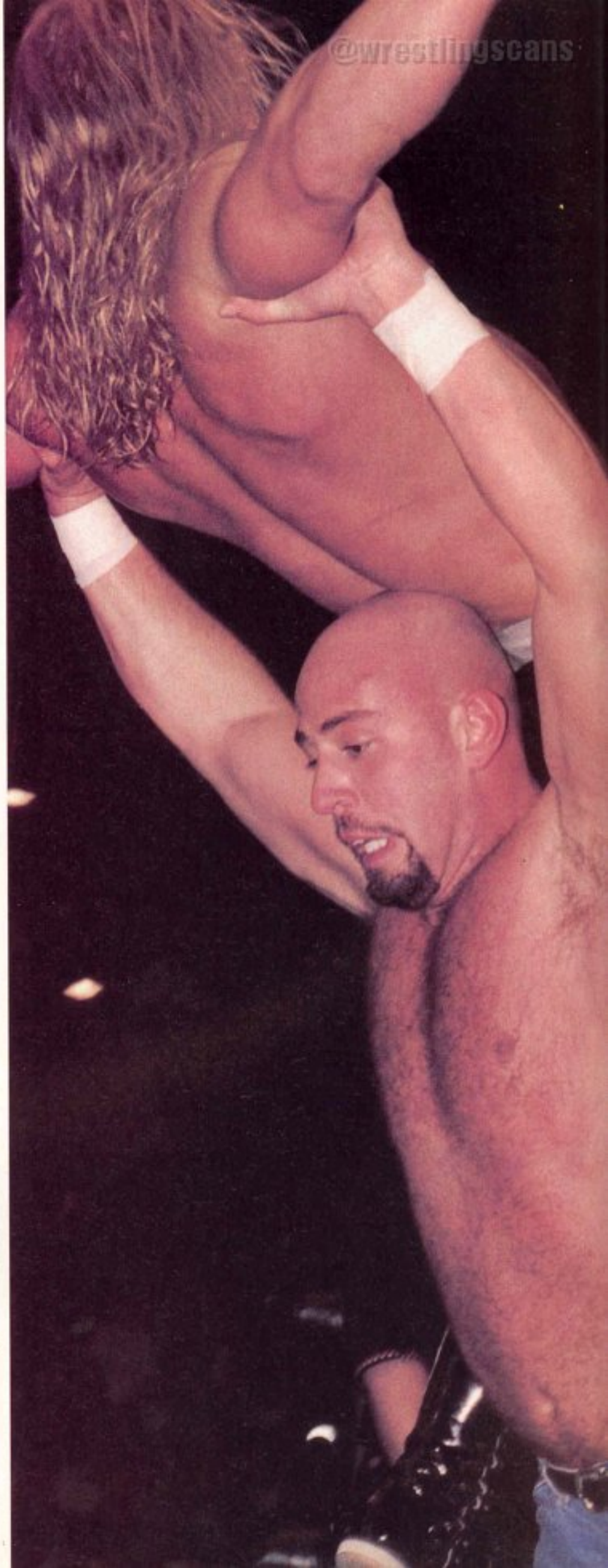
And beyond feuds and bloody battles?

"Titles. Absolutely title shots. I'm looking at the title picture. I would say that 1999 is the year that I get title recognition," Credible continued.

With or without a championship belt, Credible can reflect on his time in ECW and take comfort in one fact, above anything else.

He has been an incredible impact player.

And he is not done yet. ecw



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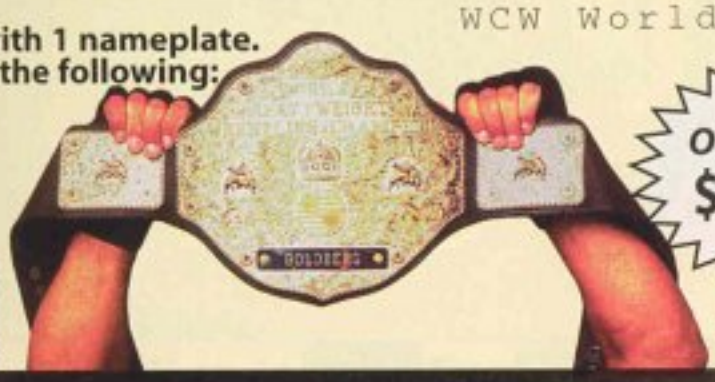

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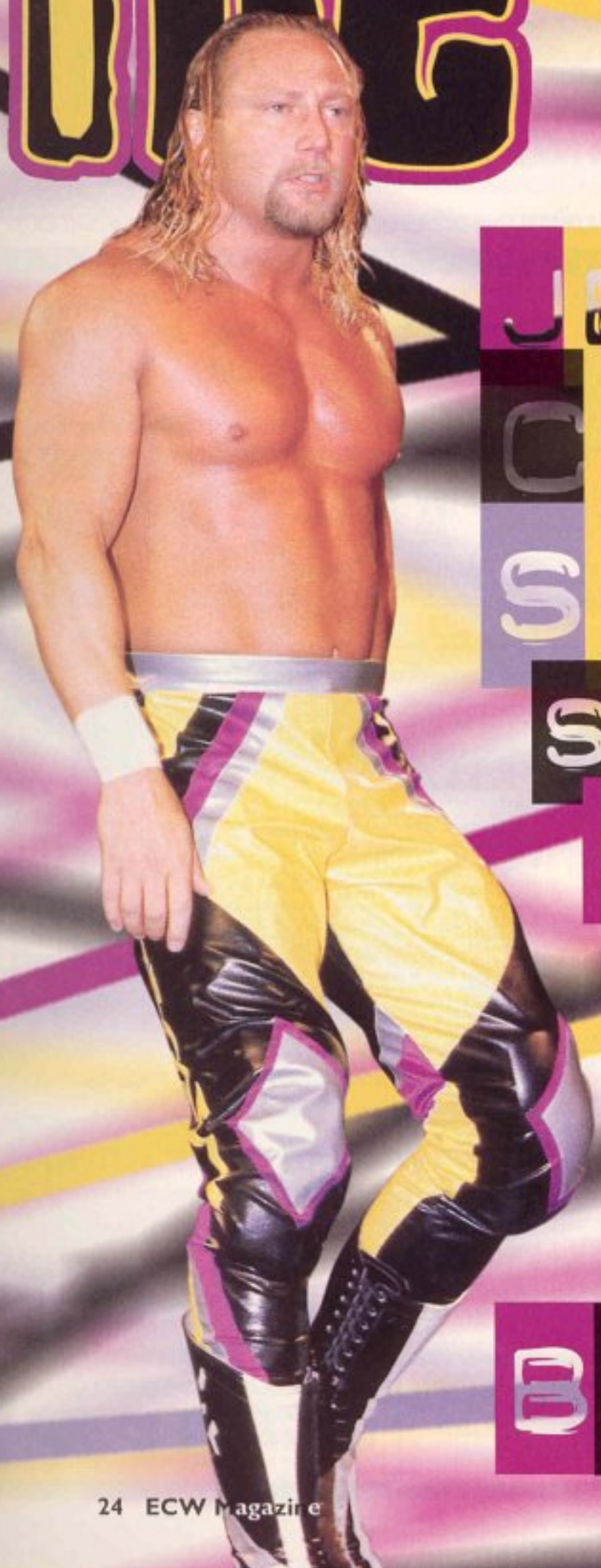

JERRY LYNN COMBINES SUPERIOR SKILLS AND LIMITLESS AMBITION TO BECOME THE NEXT BIG STAR.

F'n Show

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By Dave Scherer

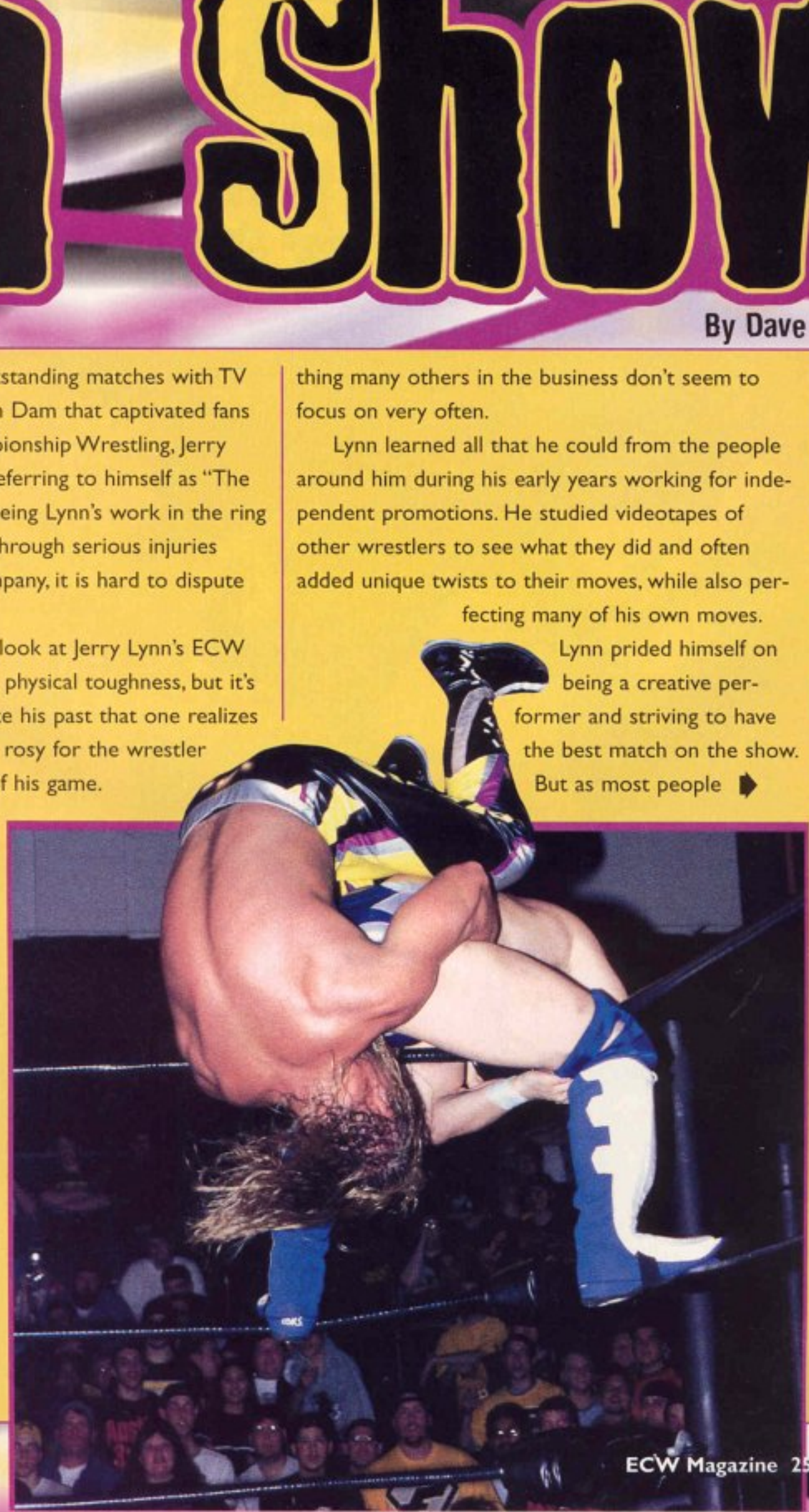
After a series of outstanding matches with TV Champion Rob Van Dam that captivated fans of Extreme Championship Wrestling, Jerry Lynn has started referring to himself as "The New F'n Show." After seeing Lynn's work in the ring and willingness to fight through serious injuries since coming to the company, it is hard to dispute his claim.

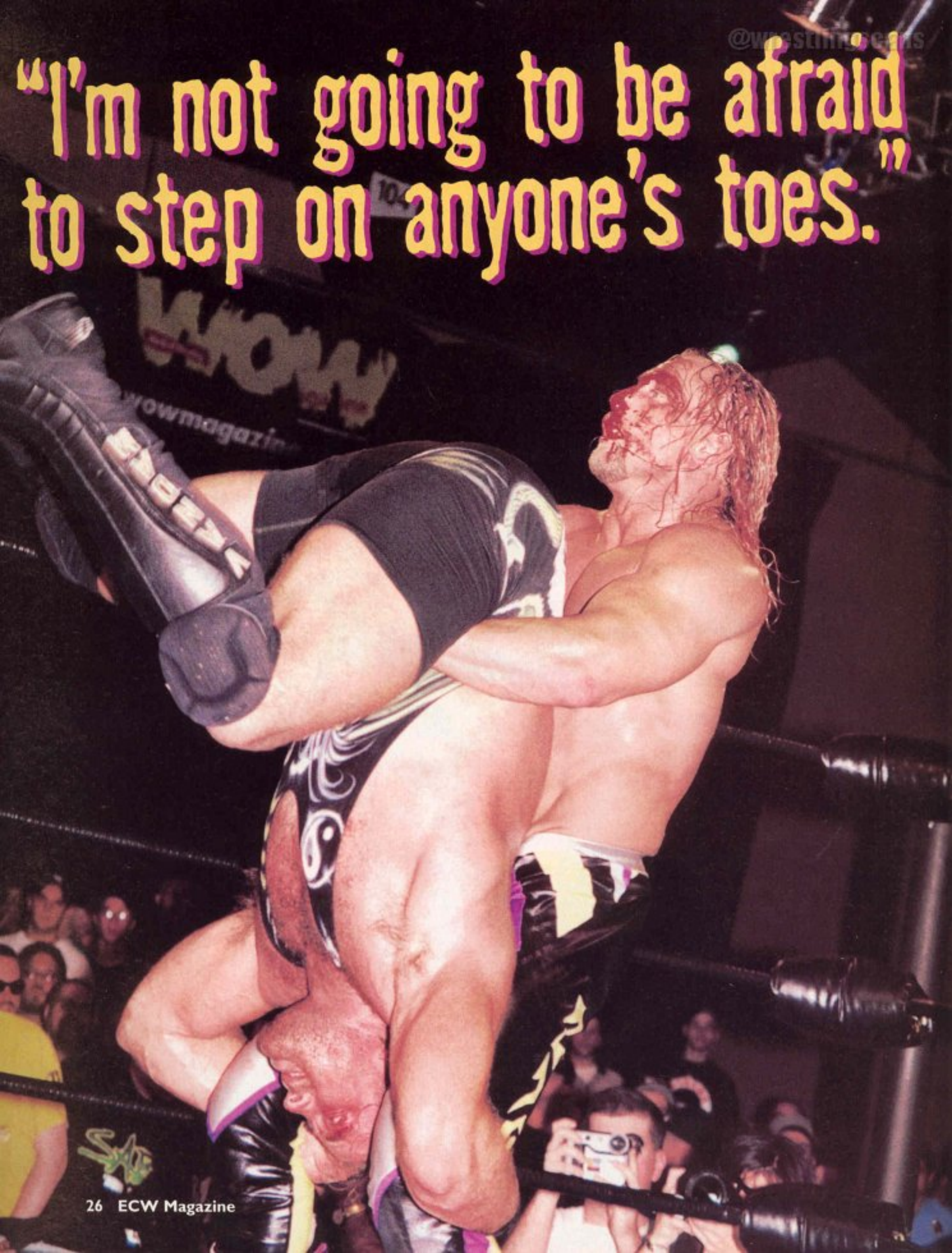
The average fan can look at Jerry Lynn's ECW career and marvel at his physical toughness, but it's only when you investigate his past that one realizes things weren't always so rosy for the wrestler who is now at the top of his game.

At 5 feet 8 inches tall and 204 pounds, Lynn was never the biggest guy in the ring. Unlike some wrestling stars, Lynn knew he was not going to be able to rely on sheer size and strength to win matches. He would have to hone his wrestling skills to stake out a place in the business. Working on wrestling skills should seem obvious, but it's actually something many others in the business don't seem to focus on very often.

Lynn learned all that he could from the people around him during his early years working for independent promotions. He studied videotapes of other wrestlers to see what they did and often added unique twists to their moves, while also perfecting many of his own moves.

Lynn prided himself on being a creative performer and striving to have the best match on the show. But as most people ➧





"I'm not going to be afraid to step on anyone's toes."

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already know, being a fantastic wrestler doesn't matter much if you don't have a promotion for which to ply your trade.

An 11-year veteran, Lynn paid his dues working in practically every promotion in the United States and for a brief time in Japan from 1988 to 1995. He wrestled in the Memphis territory and was even on the first-ever set of TV tapings for the now-defunct Smoky Mountain Wrestling company. Lynn also worked a few TV shots for the World Wrestling Federation, but he was never offered a contract.

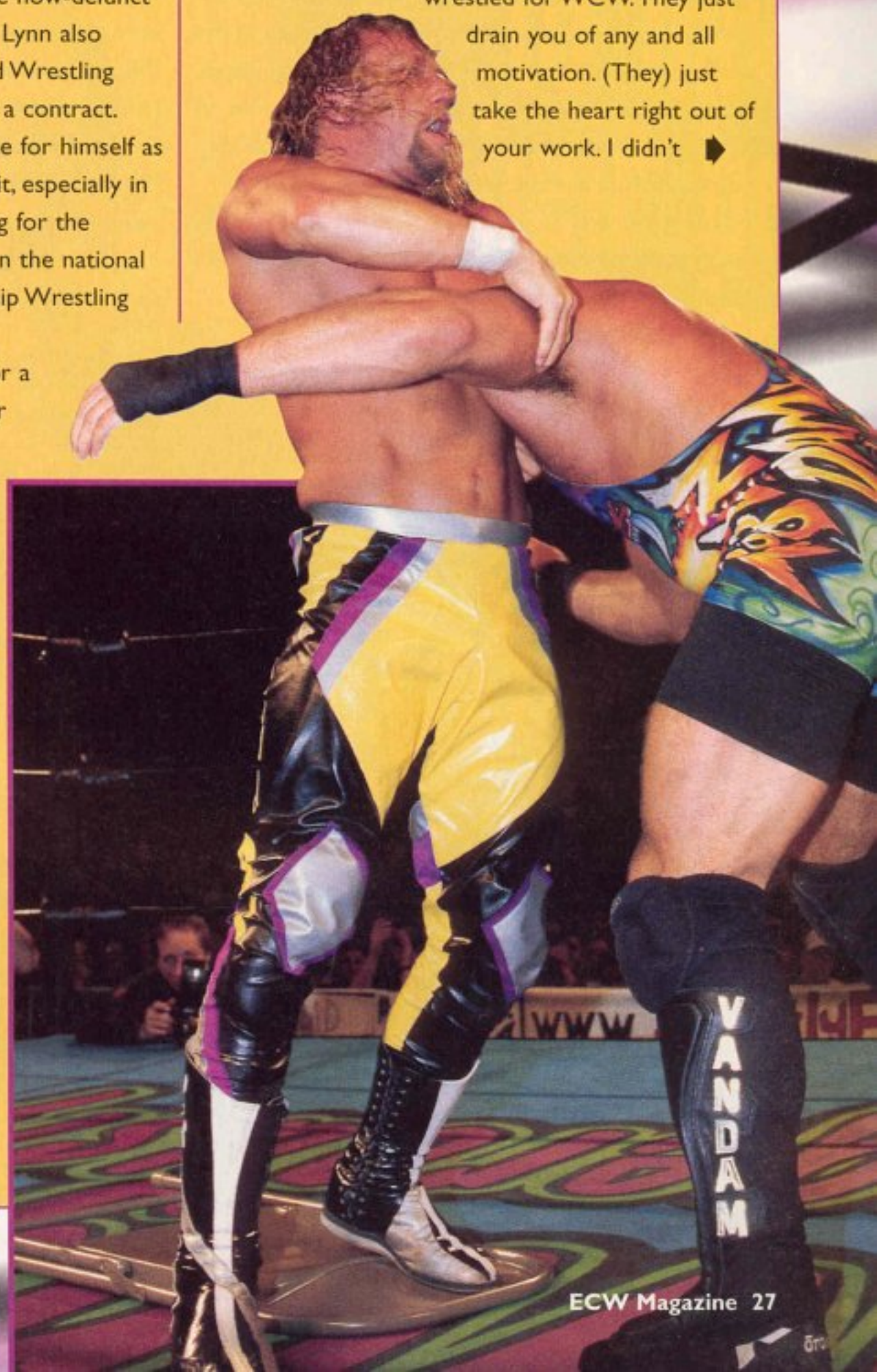
Lynn continued to develop a name for himself as a high flyer on the independent circuit, especially in his native Minnesota, and kept looking for the opportunity to showcase his talent on the national stage. Ultimately, World Championship Wrestling took notice.

Lynn pitched an idea to WCW for a takeoff on the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, a gimmick that he had been working on. Lynn thought WCW was looking for a character like that and would push it. It sounded like the perfect opportunity, and he signed with WCW in late 1995.

What appeared to be his big break, however, turned into a nightmare for Lynn when WCW saddled him with the name "Mr. JL" before his first match. He found no push and no spotlight on his wrestling ability. Besides being just another one of many guys in the company, it was also clear to Lynn that he was not going to be allowed to show anybody up by doing the kind of moves that got him noticed.

After Lynn's run in WCW, he became jaded toward the wrestling business. He even considered getting out of the business entirely and going into stunt work. He had done a movie in 1992 with Sean "X-Pac" Waltman called "Crossing The Bridge" for which they orchestrated the fight scenes.

Lynn said, "You can ask a lot of the guys who wrestled for WCW. They just drain you of any and all motivation. (They) just take the heart right out of your work. I didn't ➧



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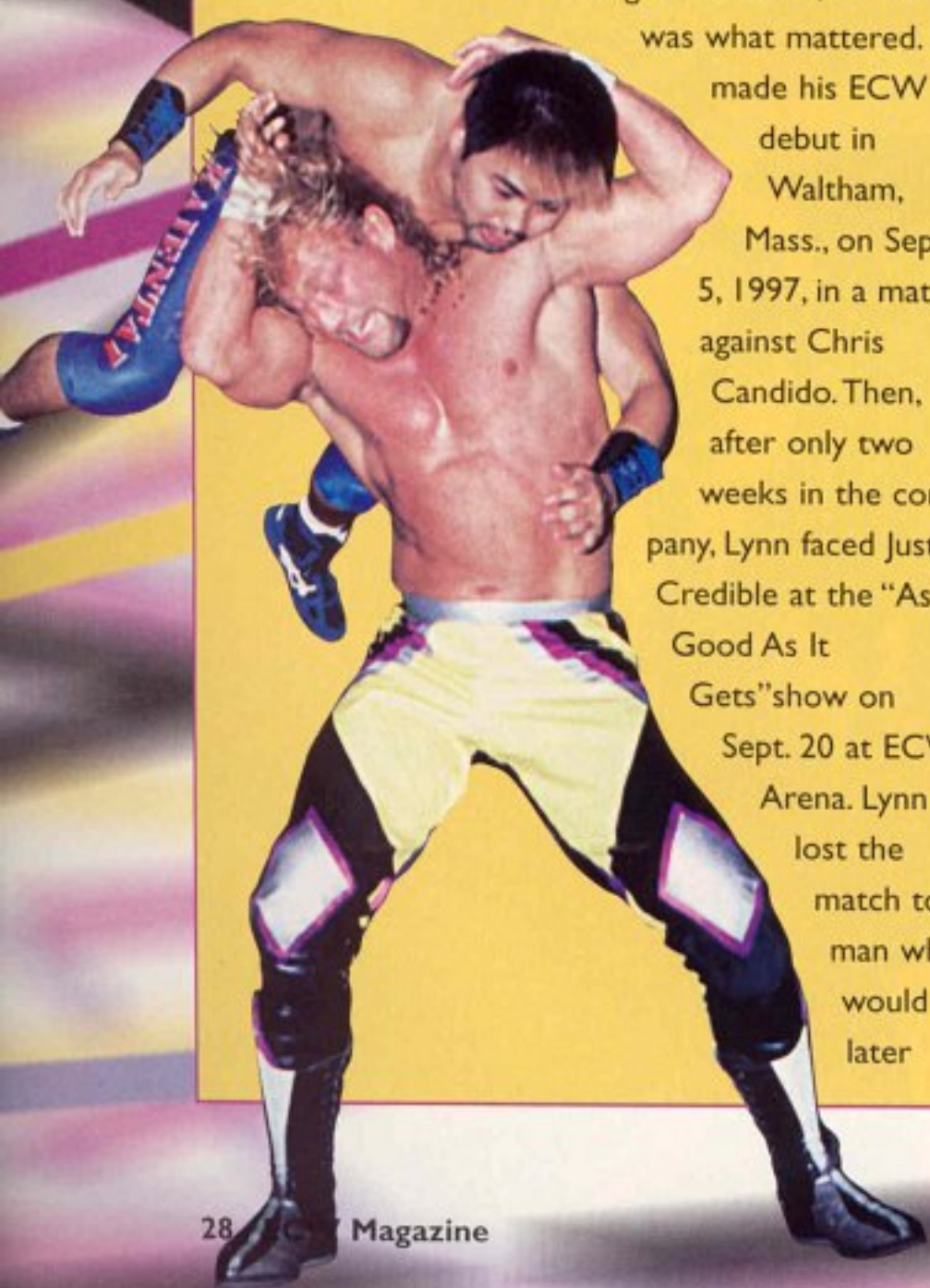
want to wrestle after being there. I was ready to quit wrestling altogether."

So, what made Lynn decide to come to ECW despite his growing disdain for the business? Lynn recalled a conversation he had in 1997 with ECW promoter Paul E. Heyman around the time the offer was made for him to work for the company.

"In WCW, I was bitched at for having 'too-good' matches with certain people. I knew my place at the time. I was there to make everyone else look good," Lynn said. "Paul E. doesn't do that. You can go out to the ring and basically do whatever you want to. He let me wrestle like the old Jerry Lynn. I could just go out there and do what I liked to do. Paul E. said when he hired me, 'I want you to go out there and steal the show.' "

This was clearly the situation Lynn had been looking for. In ECW, his work was what mattered. He made his ECW debut in Waltham, Mass., on Sept. 5, 1997, in a match against Chris Candido. Then, after only two weeks in the company, Lynn faced Justin Credible at the "As Good As It Gets" show on Sept. 20 at ECW Arena. Lynn lost the match to a man who would later become one of his most accomplished foes. Ultimately, Credible was the guy against whom Lynn would hit his stride in ECW.



Lynn's early ECW days saw him paired with veteran Tommy Rogers in a feud with the tag team of Candido and Lance Storm. Some of the matches started with Candido wrestling Rogers, and when Storm interfered, Lynn would come out and even up the sides by teaming with Rogers. Mixed in with this feud were tag bouts against the Full Blooded Italians, whom Lynn and Chris Chetti defeated at the Living Dangerously pay-per-view event on March 1, 1998.

"In WCW, I was bitched at for having 'too-good' matches with certain people. I knew my place at the time. I was there to make everyone else look good."

Nevertheless, while he was getting more of a push than he ever did in WCW, Lynn had yet to break through the way he wanted. This was mostly because of restrictions he had placed on himself, due in part to his experience being held back in WCW. In Atlanta, he had to deal with the politics involved in working for a huge company and co-existing with some big egos. Being new to ECW, Lynn wasn't sure if things were the same there. In WCW, if he wrestled to his potential, he heard about it when he got to the back because some of the big names felt they were being shown up by "a kid." This trepidation carried over to Lynn's early tenure in ECW. ▶

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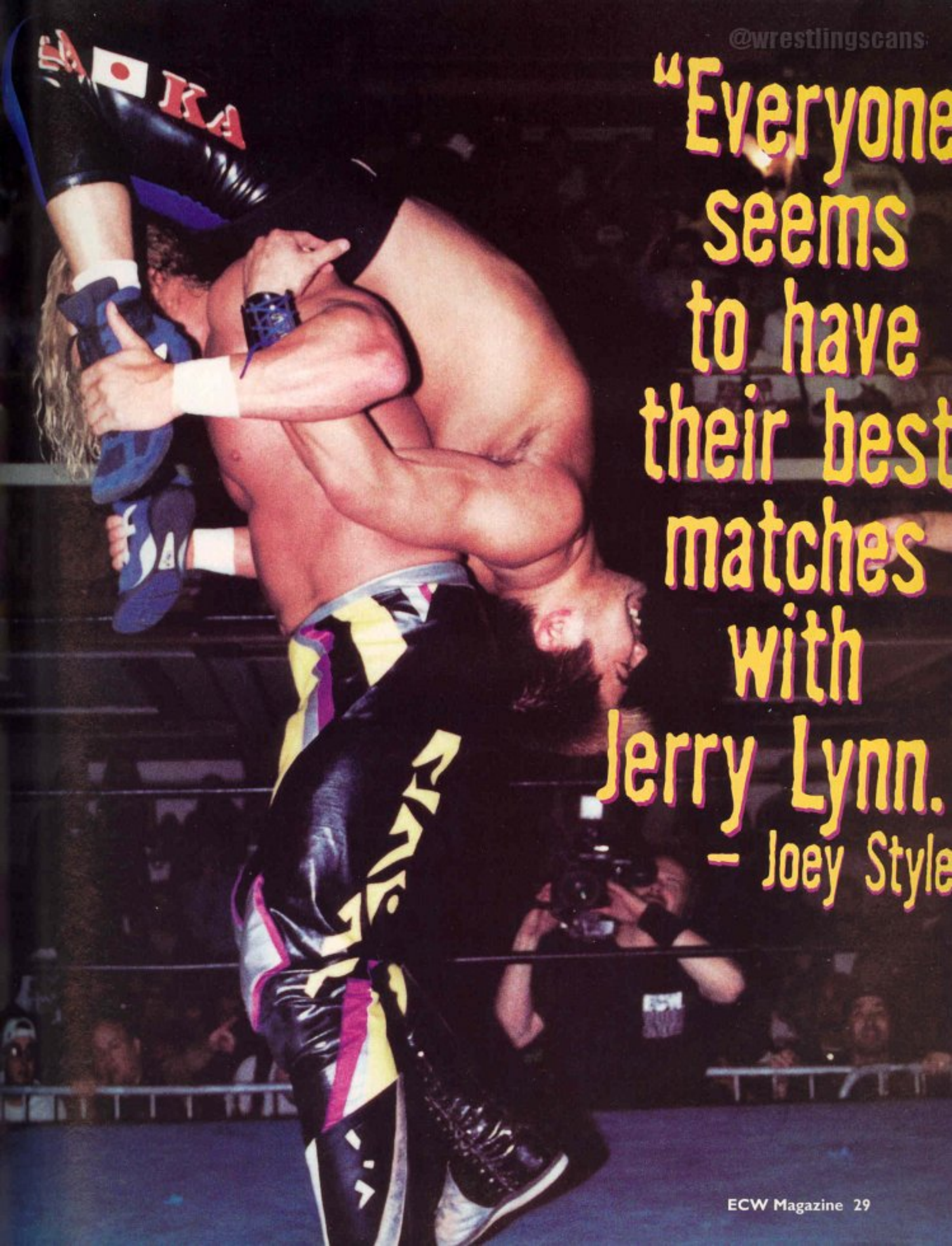
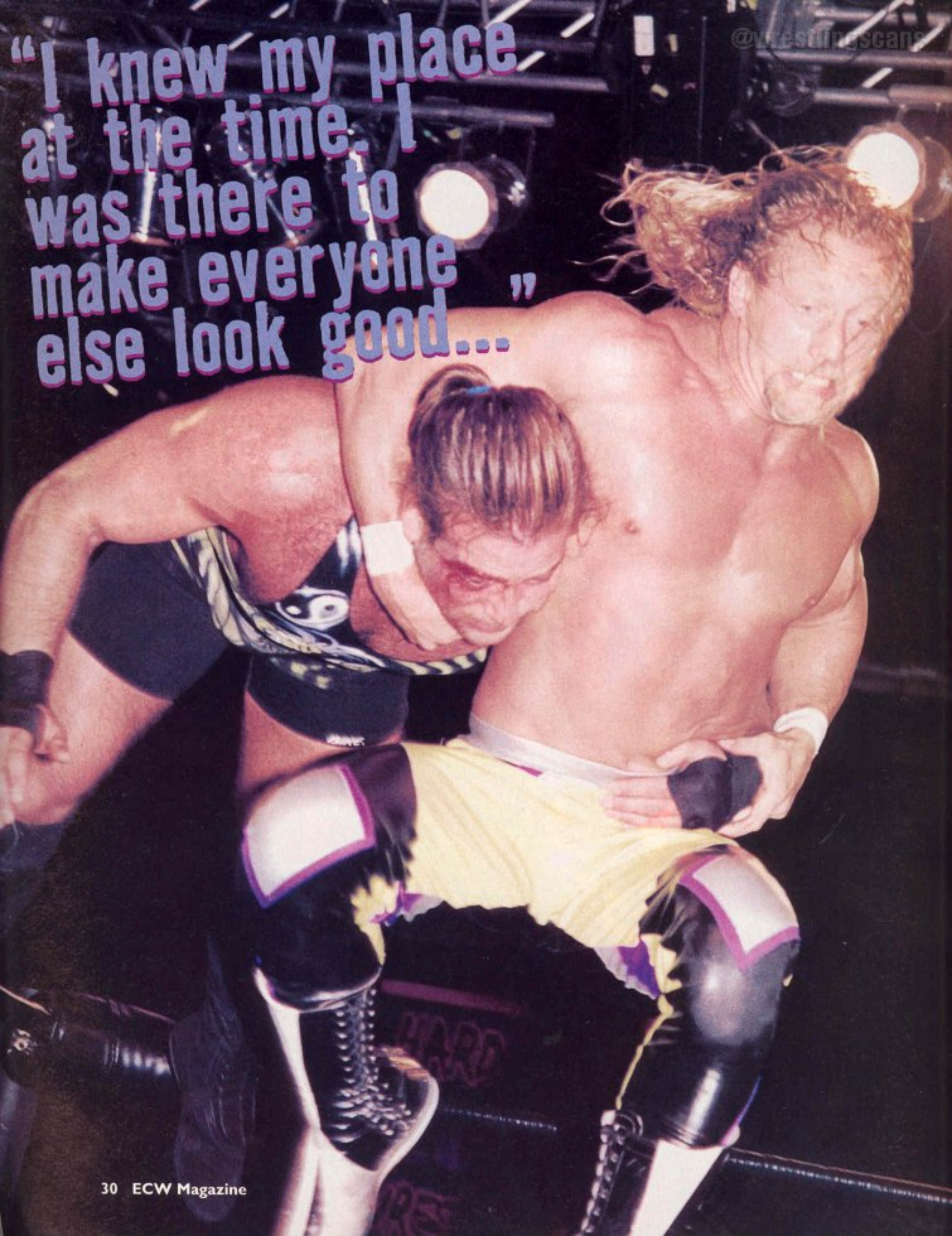


"Everyone seems to have their best matches with Jerry Lynn."
– Joey Style



"I knew my place at the time. I was there to make everyone else look good..."

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"I went out there and tore it up, and that is when everything started to change."

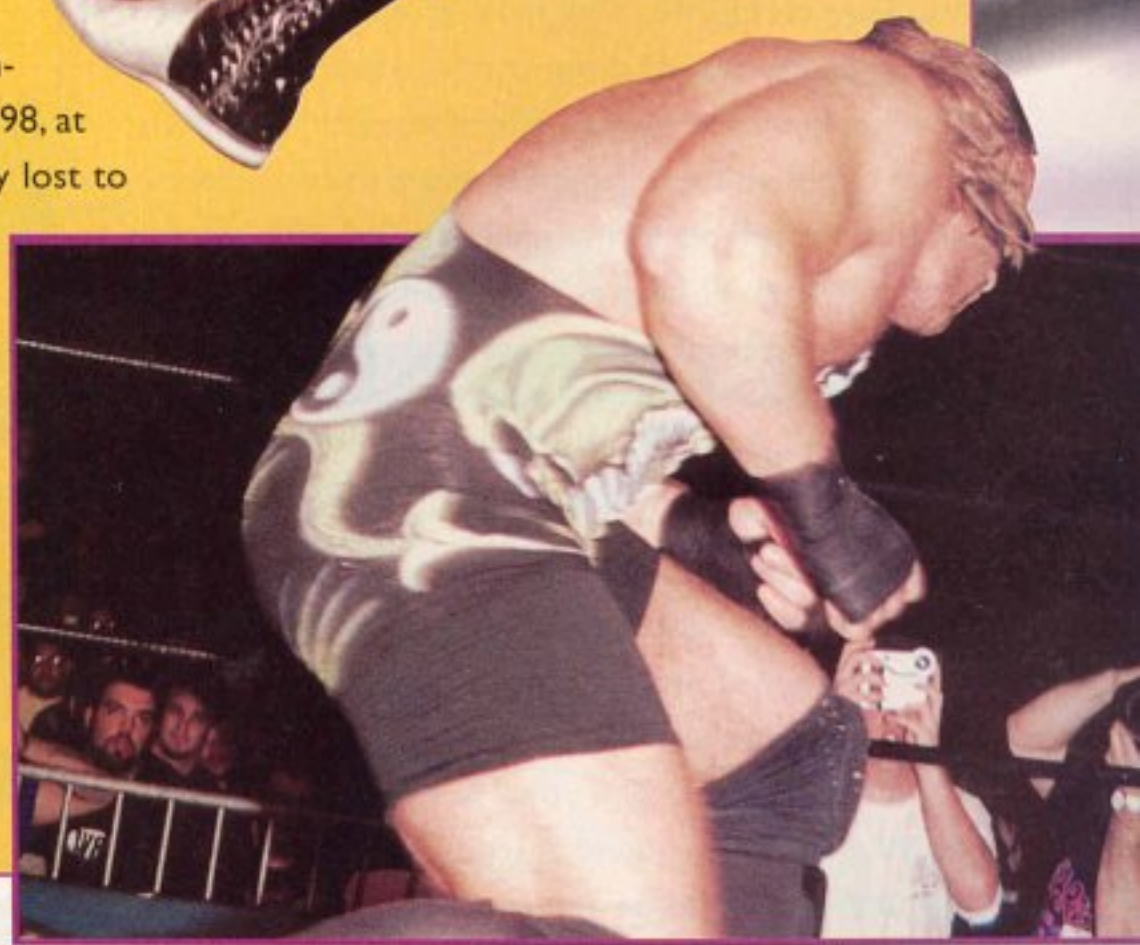
Then, on May 16, 1998, everything changed for Lynn at the "Matter Of Respect" show, during which he had a two-out-of-three-falls match with Justin Credible.

"I told myself, 'I'm not going to ask permission to do anything,' " Lynn said. "I'm not going to be afraid to step on anyone's toes. I went out there and tore it up, and that is when everything started to change."

Indeed it did. Even though Lynn lost the match in the third fall, he was a winner that night because he opened everyone's eyes by wrestling the match that everyone in the company wanted him to have. He was finally wrestling as "the old Jerry Lynn" again. The events of that weekend, which included him beating Credible on the May 14, 1998, "It Ain't Seinfeld" show in Queens, N.Y., put Lynn well on his way to being one of the top stars in ECW.

Lynn's feud with Credible continued throughout the summer. He beat Credible on June 6, 1998, at ECW Arena in an "I Quit" match and then finally lost to Credible at the Aug. 2 Heat Wave PPV. Winning or losing was not really the issue, of course. More important was that Lynn was having exciting, challenging matches every night.

The late summer saw Lynn feuding with Mikey Whipwreck. Lynn continued to have great matches, and more people noticed. Lynn's aggressive style also caused him to suffer some injuries at the end of 1998, including a fractured pelvis, twisted ankle and a badly hurt set of ribs.



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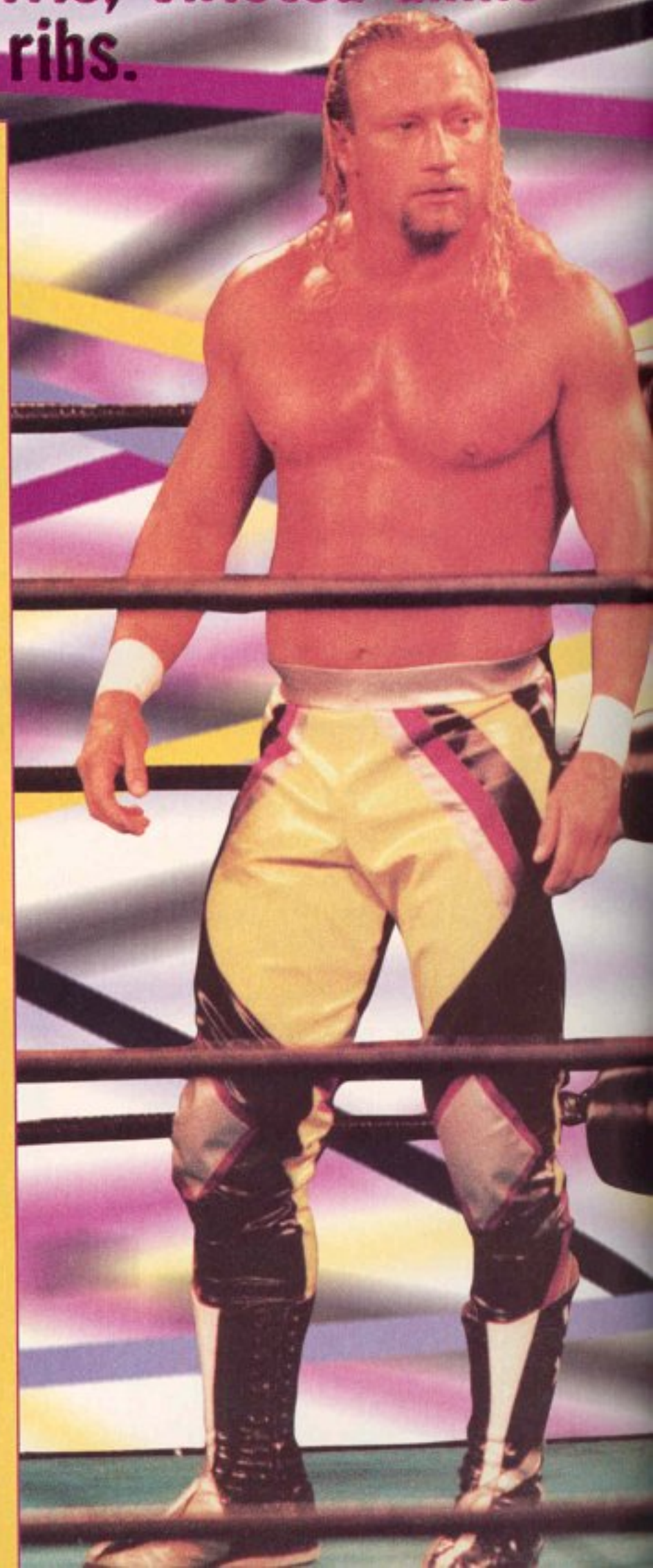

True to his nature, Lynn wanted to continue wrestling through the injuries, but Heyman forced him to take some time off to heal. He missed the January 1999 Guilty As Charged PPV, but was back on pay television on March 21, losing a hotly contested match for the TV title against Rob Van Dam, a match that went to overtime after ending in a time limit draw. It was a fantastic match that firmly established Lynn's position in the company, and almost immediately the rematch was signed for the Hardcore Heaven show in May (you can find extensive coverage of this match in the pay-per-view section of this issue beginning on page 56).

Before Lynn actually made it to the match with Van Dam, Credible came back into the picture and challenged him for his PPV shot at the TV title. Lynn beat his old foe on April 30, 1999, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to retain the shot.

The record book shows that Jerry Lynn lost to Rob Van Dam on May 16, 1999, in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., but that tells only part of the story. The reality of the situation, however, was obvious after the match, when Van Dam high-fived Lynn, demonstrating a mutual respect.

Lynn is still not completely satisfied with his spot in ECW. After all, he would not have gotten to where he is today if he was willing to settle. He wants to take on all of ECW's top dogs, and he undoubtedly will get his shot.

ECW commentator Joey Styles said, "Everyone seems to have their best matches with Jerry Lynn. Rob Van Dam's best matches, and in my opinion, the best matches of his career, were against Jerry Lynn at Living Dangerously 1999 and Hardcore Heaven 1999."

It's clear that, unlike other wrestling promotions, ECW realizes the potential superstar it has on its roster and won't let Lynn get away. ecw

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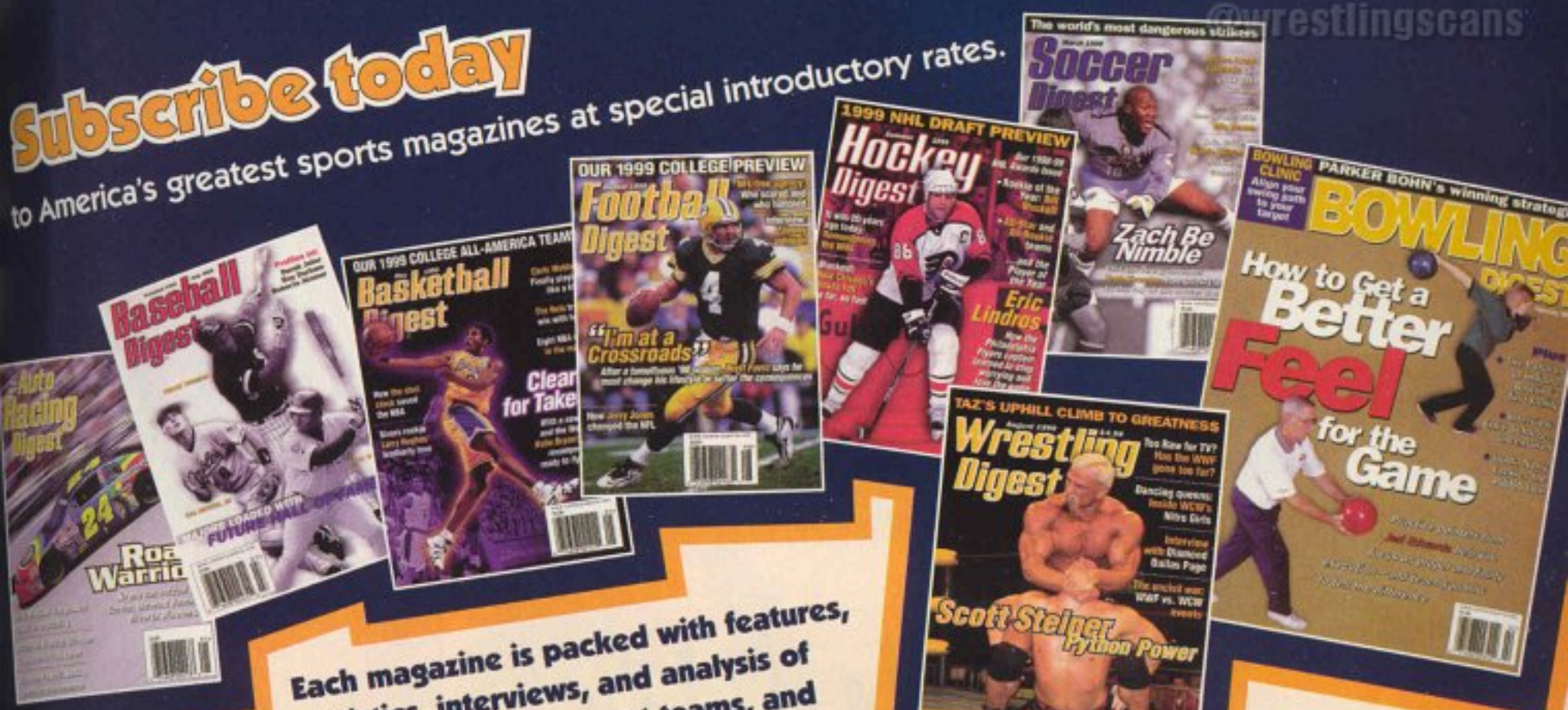

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FBI

Full Blooded Italians

Little Guido and Big Sal Graziano prove they are more than just a comedy act.

By Matt Hunter

The FBI. A cute idea, don't you think? Full-Blooded Italians. Fugeddaboutit. The group's interviews, amid the blood and spatter of most of the Extreme Championship Wrestling landscape, stand out as comic relief. And in the middle of it all stands a guy named Little Guido, a wrestler whose name belies his significant athletic background.

"Yeah, real friggin' cute idea," Guido said recently of the FBI. "Such a cute idea, something that gives every fan in the arena a reason to laugh at me.

"See, that's actually the whole problem," Guido continued. "For so long, everyone in ECW has looked at the FBI as a comedy act. Well, if you remember, the Dudleys were laughed at when they first came on the scene. Buh Buh couldn't say his own name. New Dudleys were showing up every week. But they buckled down, managed to focus themselves, and have become probably the best team in the sport today.

"Well, that's exactly where the FBI is right now," Guido said. "People have been taking the FBI lightly. I bet most of those jabronis in the stands don't even realize the FBI held the ECW tag team title. That's OK; soon they will."

Guido's career was virtually nonexistent before ECW owner Paul Heyman made the former Damien Stone an offer he couldn't refuse. Heyman spotted Guido on the independent circuit, saw potential in the gutsy competitor, and the 5-foot-7, 198-pounder has been in ECW ever since. For his part, Guido was thrilled to test his abilities in the world's toughest federation.

"Yeah, I agreed to change my name," said Guido, who has also competed extensively in Ultimate Fighting-style bouts in Japan. "Yeah, I agreed to join a mob called the FBI.

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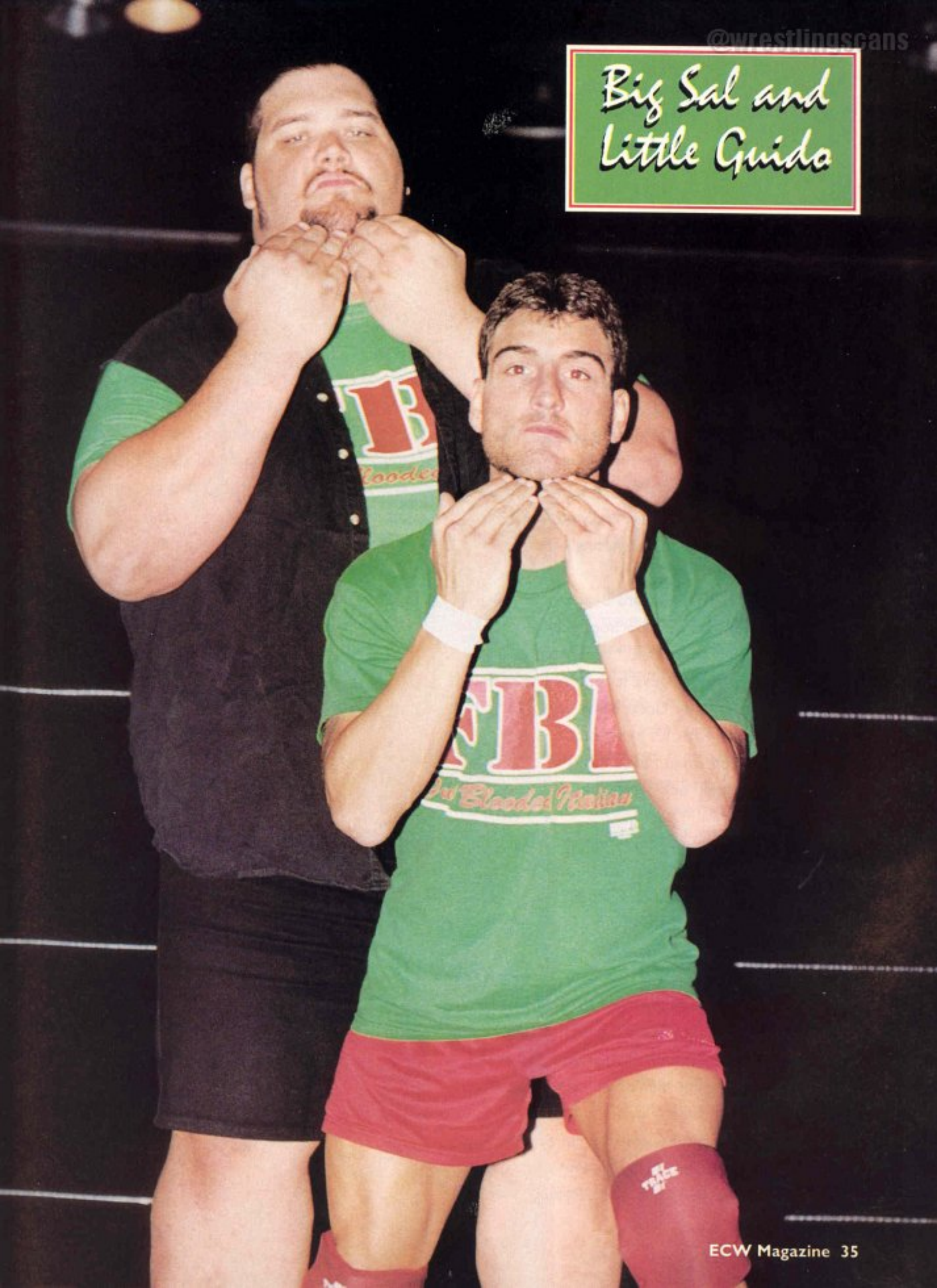
Big Sal and Little Guido



"The FBI is poised to make some serious title noise in the remainder of '99."

I mean, come on, why not? You've got guys on the independent circuit willing to give anything to get in the door of ECW. I saw it as the shot of a lifetime, and I was damn well gonna make the best of it."

And that's precisely what he did. Initially teamed with J.T. Smith, the FBI came across to ECW fans as something to laugh at on the way to the main event. Guido tried to take the fans' jeers in stride, at least for a while.

"Then (Tracey) Smothers and (Tommy) Rich were brought into the fold, and things really got out of control," Guido said of the fans' increasingly-mocking taunts.

"You know, I'm from Howard Beach, N.Y., and we've got some serious neighborhoods there, you know what I mean?" Guido said. "Where I grew up, there were plenty of wise guys. It seemed like every third kid was named Tony. Great bakeries were on every corner. So, yeah, it's in my blood, and it makes my blood boil when I hear the fans screaming "wop wimp" or "skinny guinea" or stuff like that.

"But when Tracey and Tommy joined the FBI, that just sent the fans over the edge."

And why not? What red-blooded ECW fan could take seriously the thought of Tommy "Wildfire" Rich claiming to be from Genoa, Italy?

"The closest that hick ever got to Genoa was the fat slab of Genoa salami he was stuffing down his throat," Guido said of Rich, who has since left ECW. "That certainly didn't help calm down the abuse any."

Smothers joined in the faux-Italian fun with Rich, but he also had a serious streak in him, serious enough to command a bit of respect from Guido. Together, they managed to capture the ECW tag team title for about seven weeks near the end of 1997. They defeated John Kronus and New Jack for the belts on Oct. 18, then lost them to Doug Furnas and Phil Lafon on Dec. 5.

"That was definitely a career highlight," Guido said of the title victory. "Kronus and New Jack? They were a hell of a tough team. I've heard people say our victory was a fluke, but let me ask you this: Where is Phil Lafon today? How about Furnas? Talk about a fluke! Kronus and New Jack are ECW-tough, and that says plenty about my title win.

"And I guarantee you this," Guido said after a brief pause, "that title win is, for damn sure, just the first of many. The FBI is poised to make some serious title noise in the remainder of '99."

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Indeed it is. Rich and Smothers are gone from ECW, replaced by Big Sal Graziano who, at more than 600 pounds, weighs more than Tommy and Tracey combined. And with the Southern-fried Sicilians out of the FBI (at least for the moment), Guido and Graziano can concentrate on championship gold.

"You know, he may be a little on the small side, but don't sell Guido short," Graziano said. "When he was running with Rich and Smothers, he picked up a lot of knowledge. Say what you want about them pretending to be Italian, but Rich was involved in one of the most brutal feuds of all time, against Buzz Sawyer back in the '80s, and Smothers is a former ECW tag team champion with Guido. They've got some years of experience between the two of them, and Guido cashed in on that experience, no question."

Guido said of that experience, "Yeah, I suppose I learned a thing or two from those Southern boys. And the fact is, I'm definitely ready to take the FBI to the next level. Sure, I'm on the small side for this sport, but you know what they say. It's not the size of the man in the fight, but the size of the fight in the man. And I've got more fight in me than anybody thinks.

"And if you do think it's the size of the man in the fight? Then I've got Big Sal backin' me up."

If Guido is going to lead the FBI to the next level, though, he's going to have to concentrate on his tag team wrestling and

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Guido's ever-improving scientific skills complement Big Sal's formidable propensity for brawling.

place his solo career on the back burner. Yes, Guido scored a notable victory at the Living Dangerously pay-per-view in March 1999, defeating Antifaz del Norte. And yes, he defeated El Mosco de la Merced at ECW Arena in Philadelphia shortly thereafter. But he also dropped an important match to Yoshihiro Tajiri at Hardcore Heaven in May 1999, a loss that put the brakes on his solo momentum.

Guido needs to take that loss as a signal and focus all of his energy on the tag team side of the sport if he's going to make his leadership position in the FBI pay off in championship gold.

With some seasoning, Guido and Graziano have the potential to emerge as an excellent tag team. Between the two of them, they possess a broad range of skills, enough to defeat just about any opponent. Guido is quick and agile, while Graziano is massive and intimidating. Guido can strike like a panther, and Graziano can splash an opponent into submission. Guido's ever-improving scientific skills complement Big Sal's formidable propensity for brawling.

But how do Guido and Graziano measure up against some of the top tandems in ECW today?

VS. THE DUDLEY BOYZ – Big Sal outweighs Buh Buh Ray by about 300 pounds. D-Von is a brutal competitor, but Guido could draw on his Japanese Ultimate Fighting experience to turn his intensity up a notch or two. If you think a Dudleys vs. FBI match would be a one-sided blowout, think again.

VS. BALLS MAHONEY AND AXL ROTTEN – Mahoney could hit Big Sal over the head with his monogrammed chair a few times, but odds are Graziano would not feel it that much. Could Guido alter his style to counter some of Rotten's maniacal brawling tendencies? It's possible. If Guido is as determined to lead the FBI to the gold as he says he is, then he will have to contend with Axl-style craziness regularly. Fans saw a taste of this match in the aftermath of the FBI's match against Danny Doring and Amish Road Kill at the Guilty As Charged pay-per-view in January 1999. Balls and Axl had the upper hand in that postmatch melee, but give the FBI some preparation time and things might be a little different.

VS. NEW JACK AND SPIKE DUDLEY: New Jack and Spike are extraordinary brawlers, but when title belts are on the line, that means only double disqualification. New Jack vs. Graziano is particularly intriguing, pitting the irresistible force against the immovable object. Meanwhile, Spike is one of the few ECW competitors Guido outweighs. This match would probably be much more competitive than it seems on paper.

No matter who the opponent may be, the new FBI has clearly moved beyond mere comedy-act status.

Guido said, "Me and Big Sal, we're getting our focus together."

Graziano added: "Guido's on the money. It's not gonna take long. We're gonna be opening up some eyes very, very soon."

Call them Full-Blooded Italians if you must, but make no mistake about it: This is no comedy act any longer. Guido and Graziano are F'n Brutally Intense. ecw

Little Guido against Tajiri

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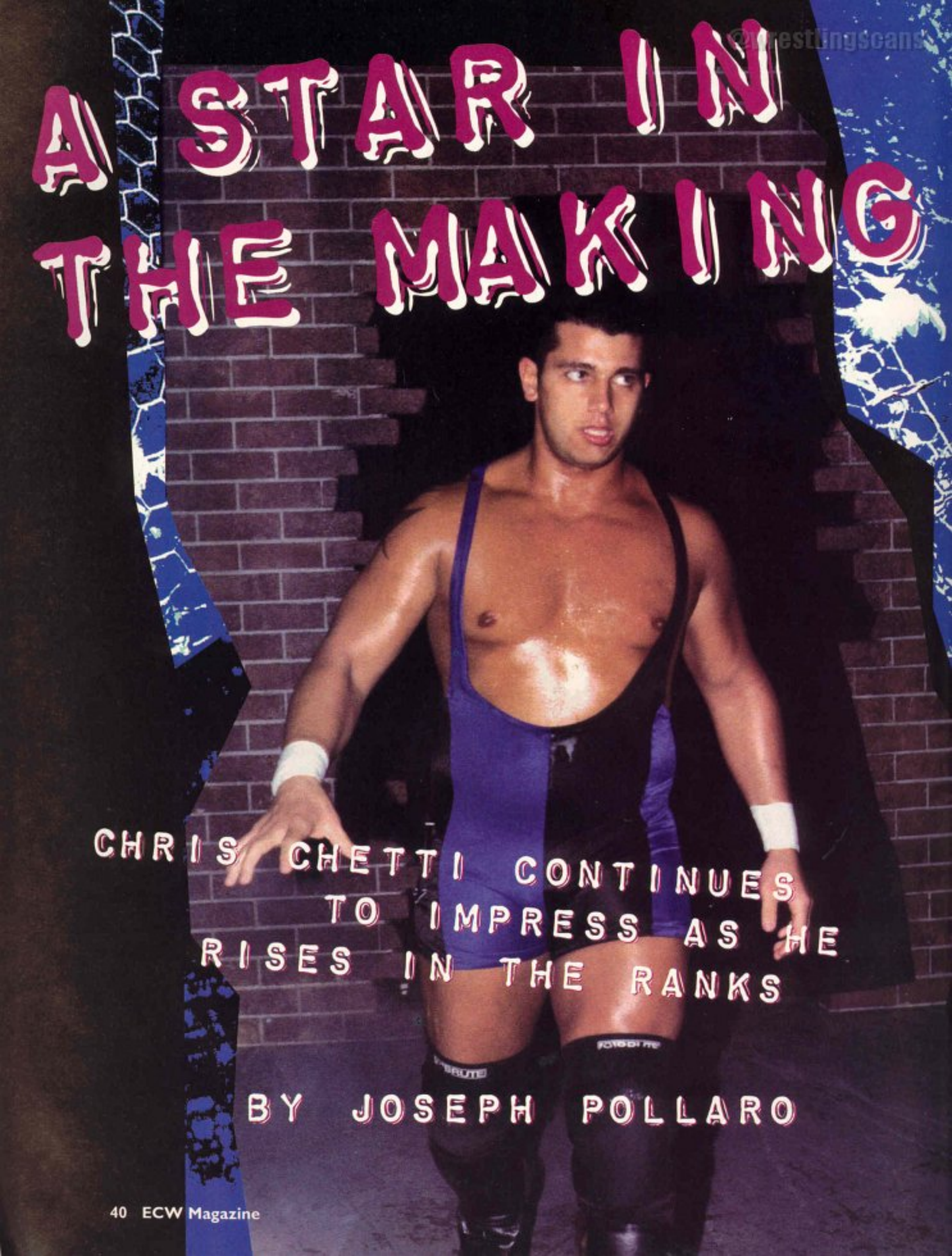
A STAR IN THE MAKING



CHRIS CHETTI CONTINUES TO IMPRESS AS HE RISES IN THE RANKS

BY JOSEPH POLLARO

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Chris Chetti, a resident of Amityville, Long Island, N.Y., has the distinction of being the first graduate of the Extreme Championship Wrestling House of Hardcore. Since his first appearance in the now-legendary ECW Arena, the young Chetti has shown that he can mix it up with the best wrestlers that ECW has to offer.

Being Taz's first cousin may have something to do with the heart that Chetti has exhibited in matches, but having neither heart nor a famous relative gets the job done in the ring. Once you step through the ropes, you have to make it on your own, and you either have "it" or you don't.

The 5-foot-11-inch Chetti has that magic ingredient of which stars are made.

ECW Magazine caught up with Chetti before one of his recent bouts in Philadelphia.

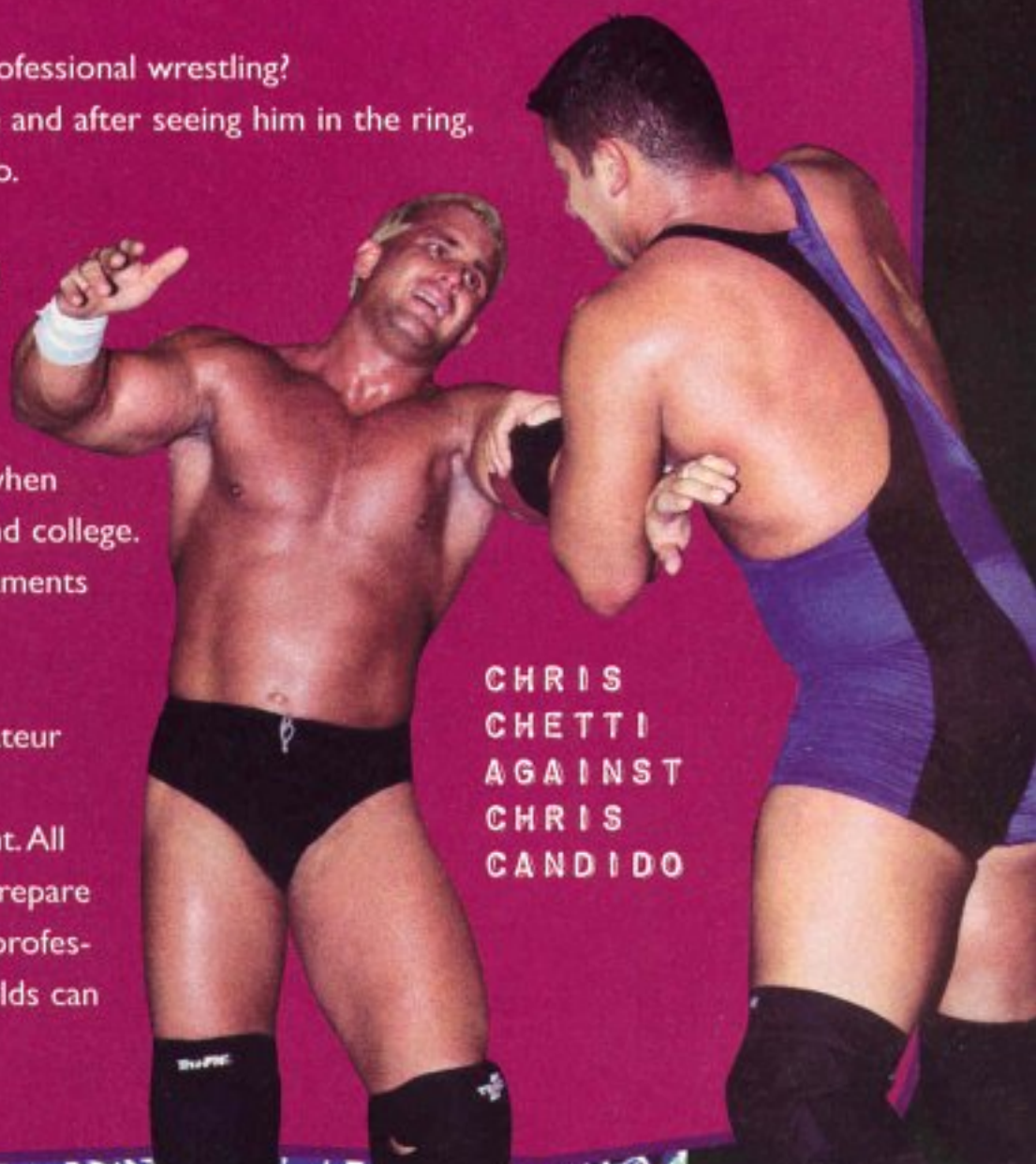
ECW MAGAZINE: Since your first appearance here it Philadelphia, it seems like you have a better grasp of your wrestling skills and that you're starting to put it all together.
CHRIS CHETTI: I have been working out at the ECW school all the time trying to improve, and all the hours that I have put in there have definitely helped me.

ECW: How long have you been involved in professional wrestling?
CHETTI: I've been wrestling professionally for two and a half years.

ECW: How did you first become interested in professional wrestling?
CHETTI: I used to watch Taz wrestle all the time and after seeing him in the ring, I knew that this was something that I wanted to do.

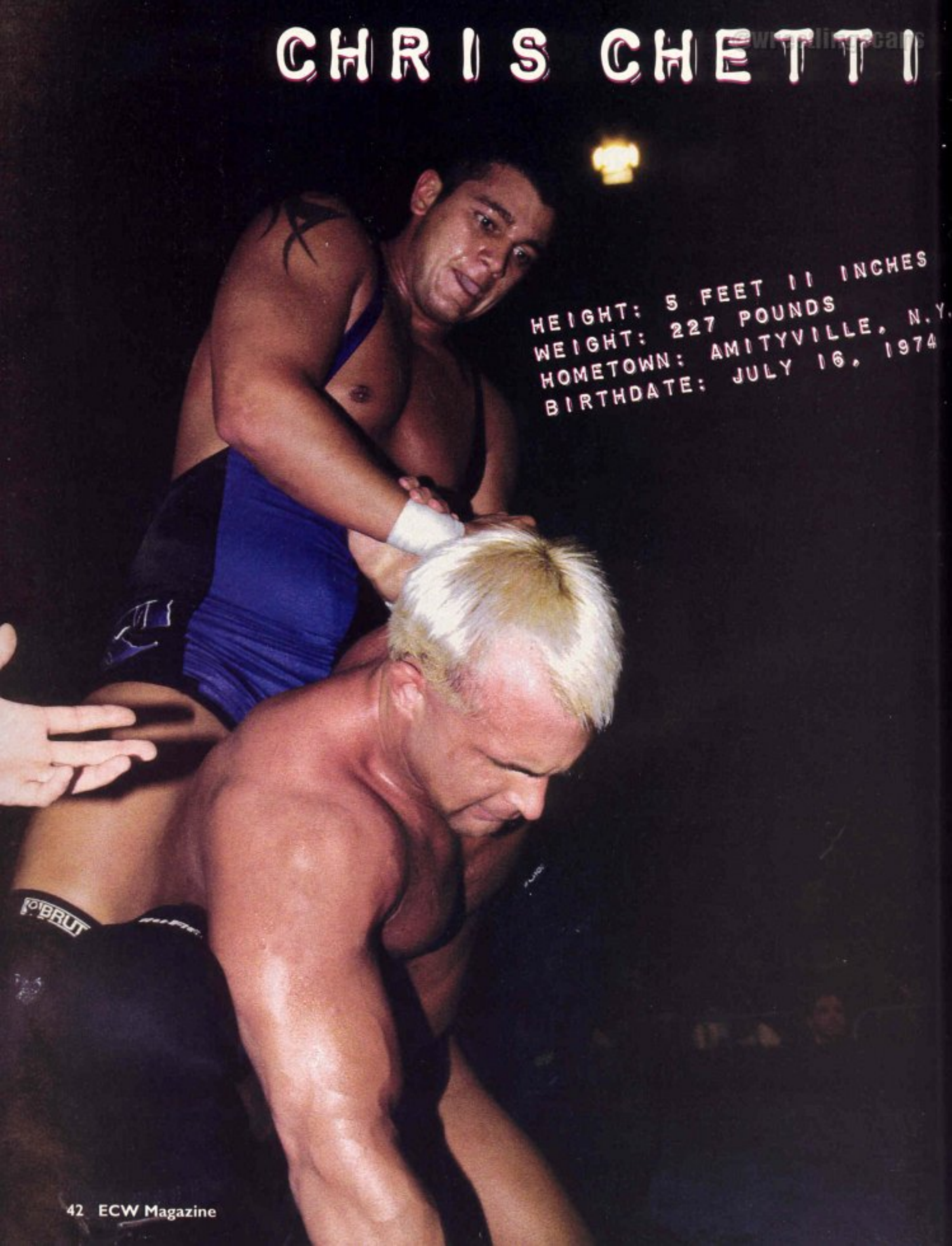
ECW: When did you first find yourself interested in wrestling?
CHETTI: I've been wrestling since I was 4 years old! On Long Island there are several outstanding amateur wrestling clubs, and I first attended one when I was very young. I then wrestled in high school and college. Along the way I was in quite a few national tournaments and, fortunately, I am now doing my thing here.

ECW: Obviously it's quite a change from the amateur style to what you are doing today.
CHETTI: Yes, it is. In fact, it's all together different. All the amateur wrestling in the world would never prepare you for what you will encounter in ECW or as a professional for that matter. Your amateur moves and holds can get you only so far once you become a pro.



CHRIS CHETTI AGAINST CHRIS CANDIDO

CHRIS CHETTI



HEIGHT: 5 FEET 11 INCHES
WEIGHT: 227 POUNDS
HOMETOWN: AMITYVILLE, N.Y.
BIRTHDATE: JULY 16, 1974

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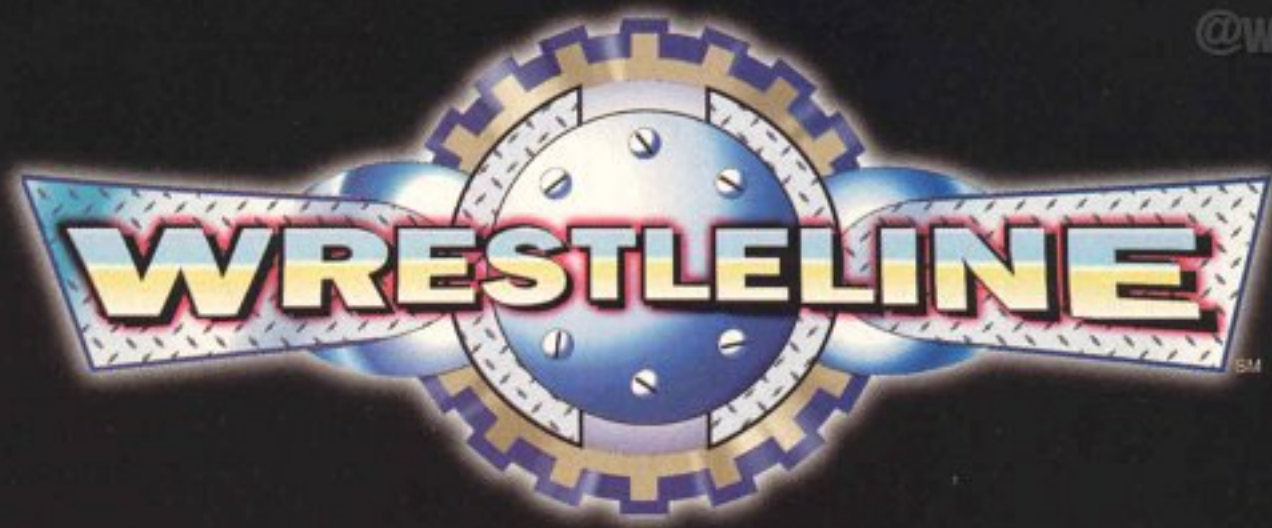

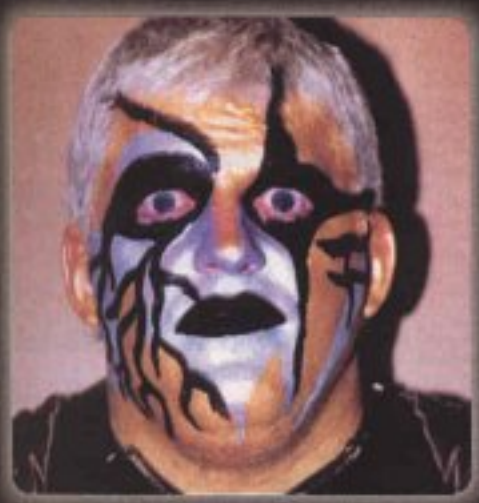

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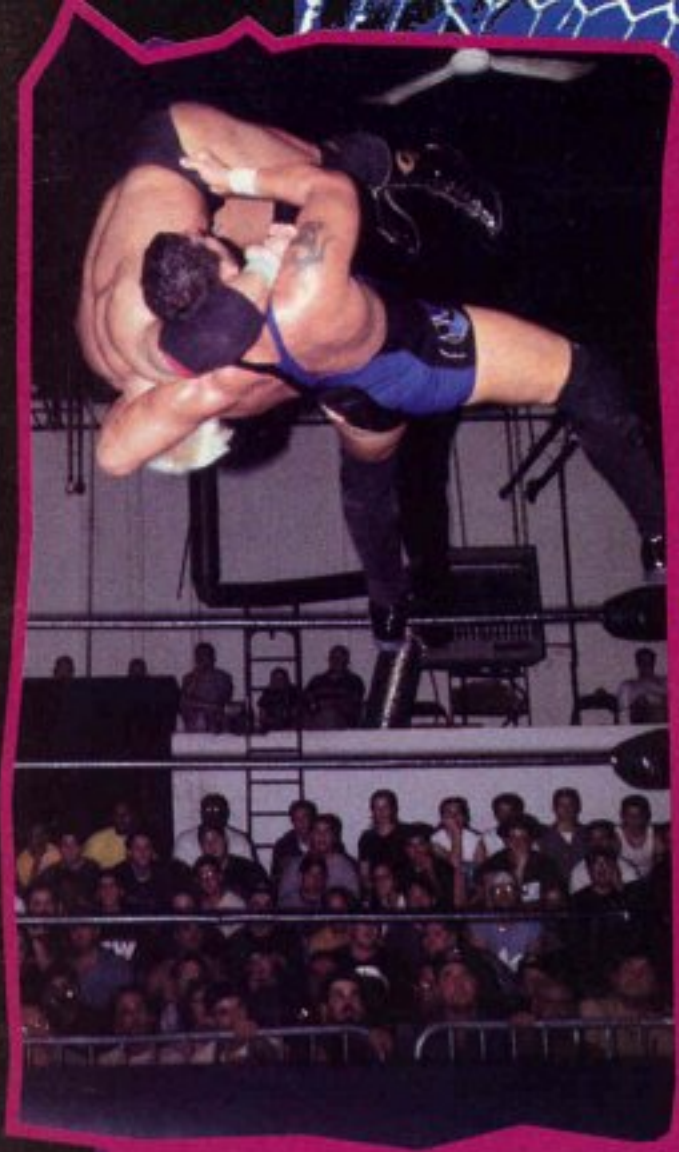


ECW: Is it safe to say that Taz has had a big influence on your life?

CHETTI: He's been a tremendous influence. As a kid he always pushed me. Then he wanted me to be the best amateur I could be. Now, as a professional, he wants me to be the best professional I can be.

ECW: With your background, why did you decide to start in ECW and not one of the other wrestling organizations?

CHETTI: Again, it was Taz who guided me toward ECW. Since he was wrestling here, it was much easier for me to start in ECW than anywhere else.

ECW: Did you have any concerns about beginning your professional career in ECW?

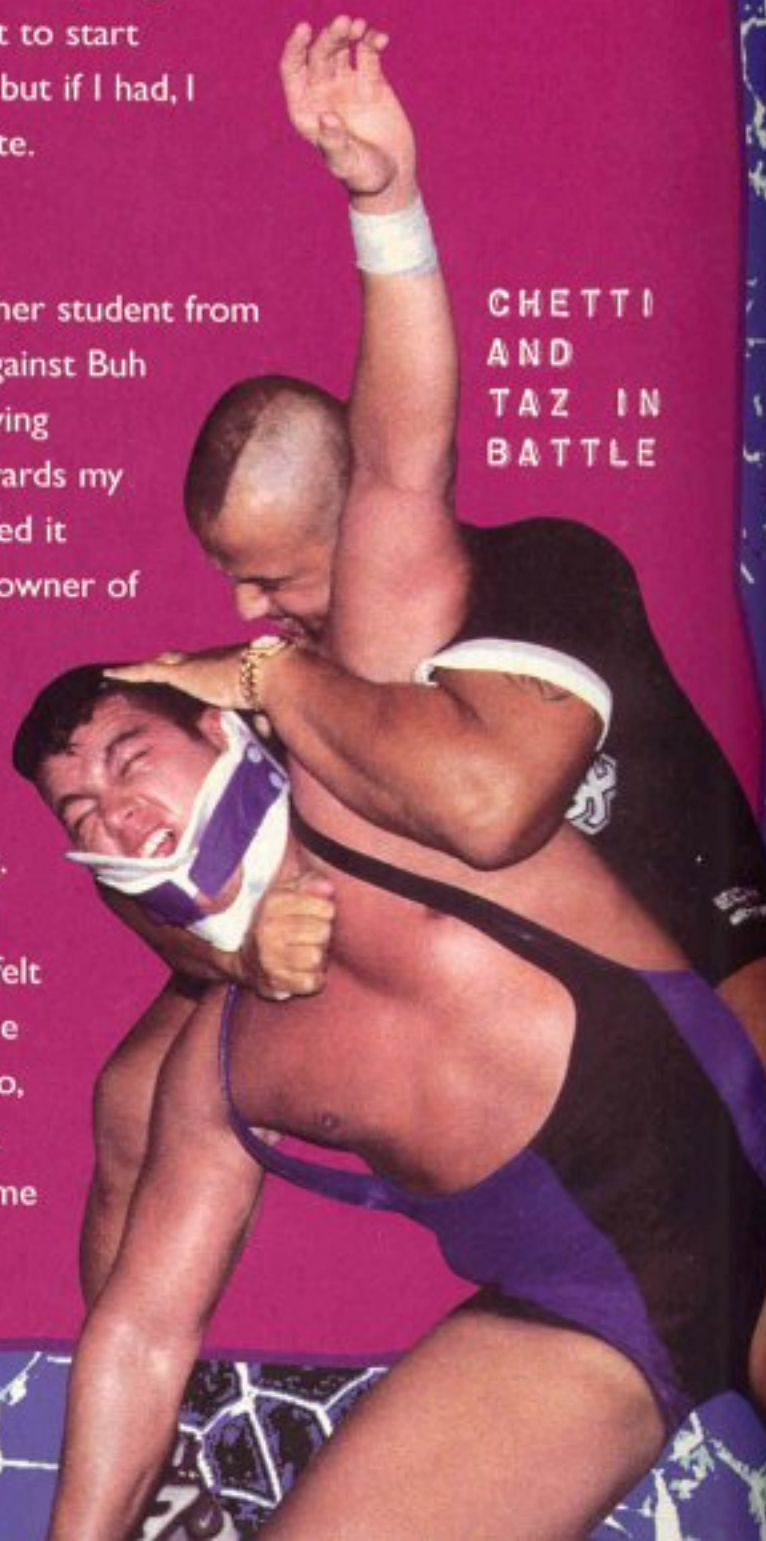
CHETTI: Actually none at all. ECW is more hardcore, more extreme, more violent than any other place out there, and I knew that if I could handle that then I could handle anything. It might have been easier at first to start somewhere other than ECW, but if I had, I don't think I would have made as much progress as I have to date.

ECW: Do you recall your first professional match?

CHETTI: Most definitely. It was a tag match in 1996 with another student from the school that has since retired, Precious Pat Day, and it was against Buh Buh Ray and Spike Dudley in Middletown, N.Y. They weren't playing around. We got beat up for a long time, and not too long afterwards my old partner decided that this life wasn't for him. As for me, I loved it from the start, and I was very fortunate that Paul Heyman (the owner of ECW) offered me a full time job.

ECW: At what point did you feel that you were finally making progress?

CHETTI: It took a long time. It was very hard at the beginning. The first year and a half I really was uncomfortable. I didn't feel that my timing was right, that my moves were smooth. I always felt that I was doing something wrong. I finally felt comfortable in the ring about a year ago in a match against Shane Douglas in Buffalo, N.Y. Something clicked during that match, and finally I felt that it was all starting to come together. And every day since, it's become a little easier and easier.



CHETTI AND TAZ IN BATTLE

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CHETTI AND NOVA BACKSTAGE

ECW: What are some of the things that you like to do in the ring?

CHETTI: My offense is really aerial. I use a lot of high-flying maneuvers in combination with various kicks off the top rope as well as springboard moves. This type of offense really complements my amateur background.

ECW: After your matches are over you often stand off in the corner watching the other matches on the card. Why is that?

CHETTI: That's correct. I do this every night. I watch as much wrestling as I can. The only way to improve is to watch and to study and to pay attention to what is going on around you. By watching the other guys, you just may be able to learn something that you can use yourself. Actually, somewhere in the back of my mind I store up all these different moves that I see others use, and when I'm in the ring sometimes this hidden knowledge comes into play and helps me come out on top.

ECW: Quite a few wrestlers spend hours watching tapes of other wrestlers. Do you do this, too?

CHETTI: I do enjoy watching quite a few of the so-called oldtimers like Ricky Steamboat. He's a tremendous athlete, and I've learned a lot by watching what he used to do in the ring. Besides him I also study old tapes of Shane Douglas and guys like Tommy Rogers, Tracey Smothers and Tommy Rich. All of them have helped me in my career. By watching tapes I can see what used to work in the ring. You would be amazed at all the tips and pointers that I learned just by watching and all that I have been able to that incorporate into my own style.

ECW: The goal of every professional is to be recognized as a champion. Are you looking for a championship match?

CHETTI: I haven't gone out of my way and demanded a championship match yet. but I know that this whole industry is about money, fame, fortune and prestige, and when you are the champion you have all of that. For this reason, I'd be crazy to say that I don't want a championship shot against Rob Van Dam or a tag team title match with my partner Nova against the Dudleys, but I can wait. I know that sooner or later my time will come, and when it does I will be ready. **ecw**

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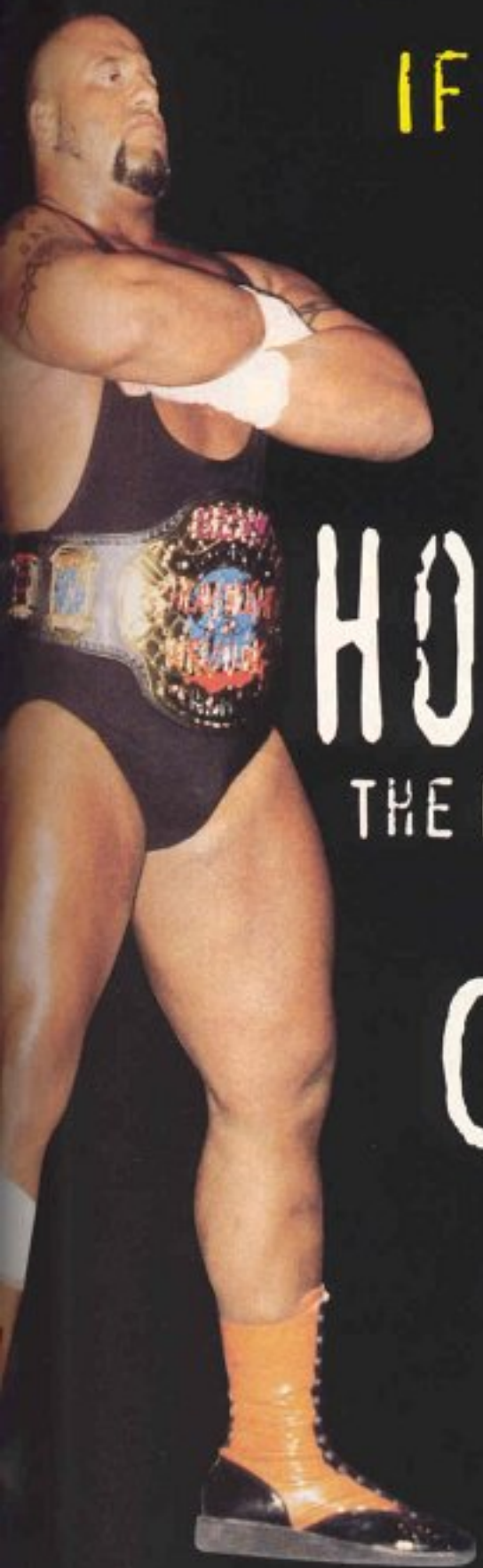
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HARDCORE?



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ECW in the HOUSE

Keep track of your favorite ECW wrestlers' performances with these house show results from around the United States. For pay-per-view coverage, see pages 56-73 of this issue. For up-to-date results from all recent shows, visit www.ecwwrestling.com.

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May 21, 1999

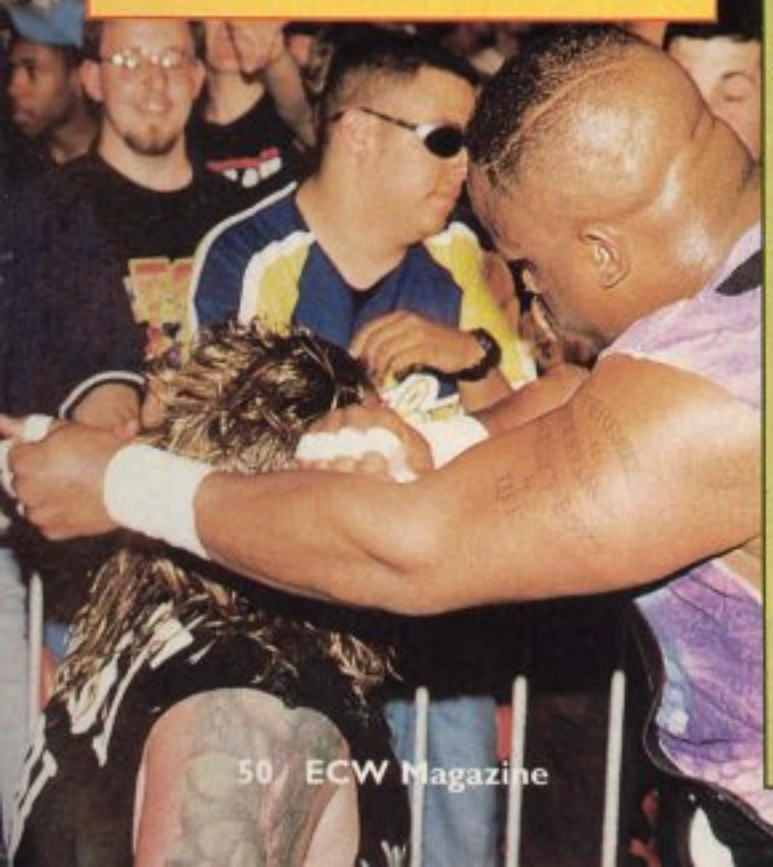
Grand Rapids Center
Grand Rapics, Mich.

- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** defeated ***Danny Doring*** and ***Roadkill.***
- ***Skull Von Krush*** defeated ***Rhino.***
- ***Rod Price*** defeated ***Spanish Angel.***
- ***Lance Storm*** with ***Dawn Marie Bytch*** defeated ***Little Guido*** with ***Big Sal.***
- ***Tommy Dreamer*** with ***Francine*** defeated ***Steve Corino*** with ***Wild Bill Wyles.***
- ***Sabu*** with ***Bill Alfonso*** defeated ***Justin Credible*** with ***Jason.***
- ***The Dudleys*** with ***Joel Gertner*** and ***Sign Guy*** defeated ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Axl Rotten*** to retain the ECW world tag title.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** defeated ***Spike Dudley*** to retain the ECW TV title.

May 22, 1999

The Coliseum, Detroit (TV Taping)

- ***Skull Von Krush*** and ***Rhino*** defeated ***Danny Doring*** and ***Amish Roadkill.***
- ***Lance Storm*** with ***Dawn Marie*** defeated ***Chris Chetti.***
- ***Little Guido*** with ***Big Sal*** defeated ***Nova. Yoshihiro Tajiri*** ran out and kicked Guido in the head repeatedly, making him release the submission hold he had on Nova. Tajiri then took out Big Sal as well.
- ***Steve Corino*** went to a no-contest with ECW House of Hardcore trainee ***Tom Marquez.*** Corino came out dressed like ***Taz*** and mocked the ECW champion. He wrestled the match like Taz, throwing Marquez with a "Corino-plex." This brought out the angry world champion. Corino, after shooting off his mouth, begged out of the match and had his "best friend" Chris Candido take on Taz for the belt.
- ***Taz*** defeated ***Candido*** in about five minutes to retain the ECW title.
- ***Super Crazy*** defeated ***Taka Michinoku*** with a Crazy powerbomb.
- ***Sabu*** with ***Bill Alfonso*** and ***Justin Credible*** with ***Jason*** went to a no-contest. ***Justin*** came out before the match and said that he had gotten Sabu banned, but a referee then said that was not the case in Michigan. The match started, and ***Sid*** came out a few minutes into it and went nuts. Security stopped Sid from doing a double chokeslam, but Sid put a ref through a table. Shortly thereafter, Justin went to leave with Jason, and Sabu hit a springboard dive onto both of them on the floor.
- ***Judge Jeff Jones*** brought out ***Rod Price*** and introduced him as his newest charge. This brought out Jones' former charge, ***Sid,*** who destroyed Price with a chokeslam and a few powerbombs.
- The ***Dudley Boyz*** defeated ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Axl Rotten*** to retain the tag title in an anything-goes ECW brawl. The end saw Balls blow fire at ***Sign Guy.*** The Dudleys poured thumbtacks on a table and then set it on fire. ***Buh Buh*** hit a powerbomb on Balls, putting him through the table.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** with ***Bill Alfonso*** defeated ***Spike Dudley*** to retain the TV title with the five star frogsplash.



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May 28, 1999
Worcester State College
Worcester, Mass.

- *El Mosco* defeated ***Lance Diamond.***
- *Skull Von Krush* defeated ***Danny Doring.***
- *Lance Storm* defeated ***Spike Dudley.***
- *Yoshihiro Tajiri* defeated ***Little Guido.***
- *The Dudleys* defeated ***Chris Chetti*** and ***Nova.***
- *Tommy Dreamer, Jerry Lynn* and ***Francine*** defeated *Steve Corino, Jack Murray* and ***Michael Morrison.***
- *Sabu* defeated ***Justin Credible.***
- *Rob Van Dam* defeated ***Balls Mahoney.***

May 29, 1999
Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Fall River, Mass

- ***Steve Corino*** defeated ***Skull Von Krush.***
- ***El Mosco*** defeated ***Tom Marquez.***
- ***Jerry Lynn*** defeated ***Tony DeVito*** with ***Wild Bill Wyles.***
- ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** defeated ***Little Guido*** with ***Big Sal.***
- ***Lance Storm*** with ***Dawn Marie*** defeated ***Lance Diamond.***
- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** vs. ***Danny Doring*** and ***Amish Roadkill*** went to a no contest. Just as the opening sequence finished, "Big Balls" blasted across the house speakers and ***Axl Rotten*** and ***Balls Mahoney*** hit the ring. From there, Axl got the crowd riled up on the mic and claimed that the fans didn't want to see these guys wrestle tonight. Axl proposed a three-way dance, and it was on.
- ***Axl Rotten*** and ***Balls Mahoney*** defeated ***Danny Doring, Amish Roadkill, Chris Chetti*** and ***Nova.***
- ***Sabu*** with ***Bill Alfonso*** defeated ***Justin Credible*** with ***Jason.***
- ***Rob Van Dam*** with ***Bill Alfonso*** defeated ***Spike Dudley*** to retain the ECW world TV title.
- ***Taz*** defeated ***Buh Buh Ray Dudley*** with Joel Gertner and Sign Guy to retain the ECW world heavyweight title.

ECW in the HOUSE

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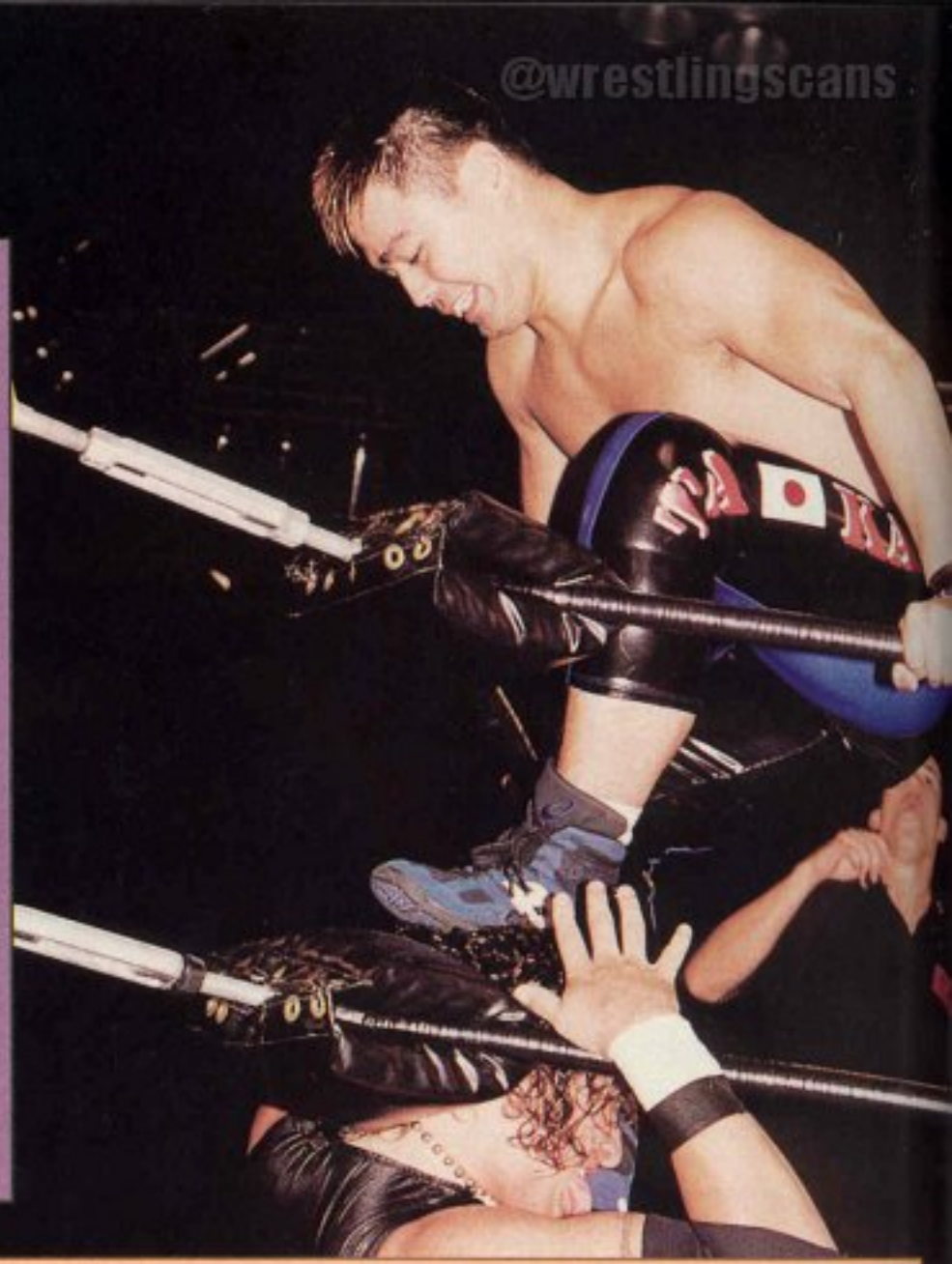
May 30, 1999

Hampton Beach Casino
Hampton Beach, N.H.

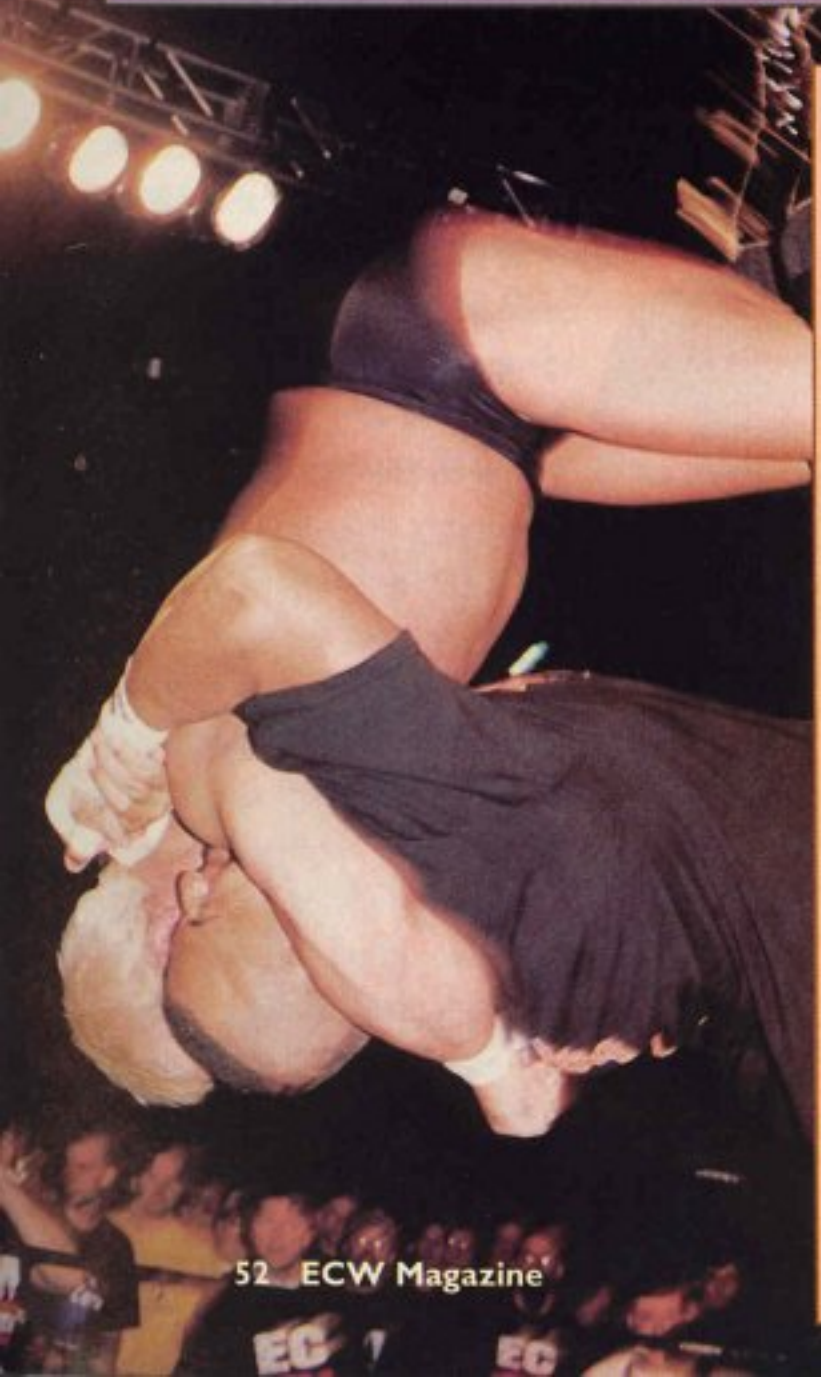
- ***El Mosco*** defeated ***Tony DeVito.***
- ***Nova*** defeated ***Spanish Angel.***
- ***The Dudley Boyz*** defeated the teams of ***Danny Doring*** and ***Amish Roadkill*** and ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Axl Rotten*** in a three-way dance to retain the tag team titles.
- ***Lance Storm*** with ***Dawn Marie*** pinned ***Chris Chetti.***
- ***Steve Corino*** defeated ***Skull Von Krush.***
- ***Jerry Lynn*** defeated ***Lance Diamond.***
- ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** defeated ***Little Guido.***
- ***Sabu*** defeated ***Justin Credible.***
- ***Rob Van Dam*** defeated ***Spike Dudley*** with the five star frogsplash in 11:52 to retain the TV title.



June 4, 1999

Northwest Georgia Convention Center
Dalton, GA

- ***Taka Michinoku*** defeated ***El Mosco.***
- ***Jerry Lynn*** defeated ***Tony DeVito.***
- The ***Dudley Boyz*** defeated ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti.***
- ***Balls Mahoney*** defeated ***Rod Price,*** who replaced the absent ***Axl Rotten*** in an Extreme Death Match (Rotten had missed his flight).
- ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** defeated ***Little Guido.***
- ***Skull Von Crush*** and ***Spanish Angel*** went to a no-contest with ***Roadkill*** and ***Danny Doring*** when Doring made the mistake of calling out ***Taz,*** who came out and destroyed all four men.
- ***Sabu*** (who was not banned from wrestling in Georgia) defeated ***Justin Credible.***
- ***Rob Van Dam*** defeated ***Spike Dudley*** to retain the ECW TV title.



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June 5, 1999
Comer Auditorium
Columbus, GA

- ***Taka Michinoku*** defeated ***El Mosco.***
- ***Chris Chetti*** and ***Nova*** defeated ***Danny Doring*** and ***Amish Roadkill.***
- ***Lance Diamond*** defeated ***Steve Corino*** when Corino bumped into his second, ***Tommy Rich.***
- ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** defeated ***Little Guido*** with ***Big Sal.***
- ***Balls Mahoney*** defeated ***Rod Price*** in a hardcore match.
- ***Taz*** defeated ***Skull Von Krush*** to retain the ECW world title.
- ***The Dudley Boyz*** defeated ***Jerry Lynn*** and ***Spike Dudley*** to retain the ECW world tag titles.
- ***Sabu*** defeated ***Justin Credible*** with ***Jason.***

June 6, 1999
Georgia Mountains Center
Gainesville, GA

- ***Rod Price*** defeated ***Spanish Angel.***
- ***Angry Amish Roadkill*** and ***Danny Doring*** defeated ***C.W. Anderson*** and ***Skull Von Krush.***
- ***Lance Diamond*** defeated ***Steve Corino*** with ***Tommy Rich.***
- ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** defeated ***El Mosco.***
- ***The Dudley Boyz*** defeated ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** to retain the ECW tag team titles.
- ***Little Guido*** with ***Big Sal*** vs. ***Tony Devito.*** Little Guido decided that Big Sal would take the match. Big Sal won the bout with a diamond cutter. They then challenged anyone from the back. ***Spike*** came out and did his usual low blow into an acid drop for the win.
- ***Jerry Lynn*** defeated ***Justin Credible.***
- ***Rob Van Dam*** defeated ***Balls Mahoney*** to retain the ECW TV title. ecw

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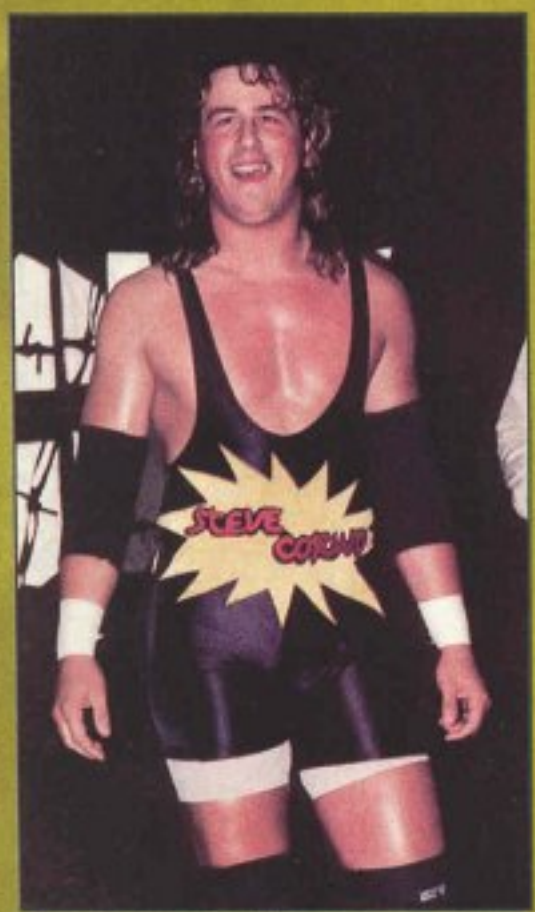
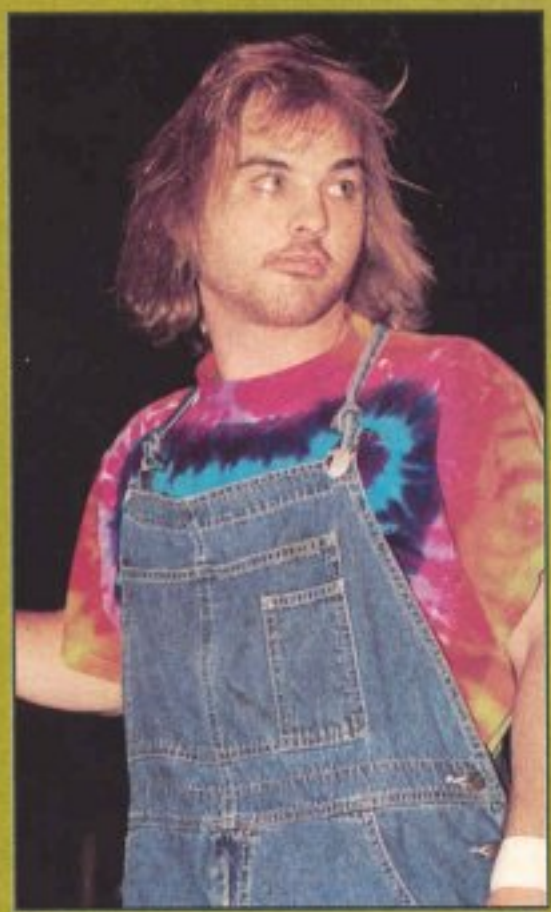
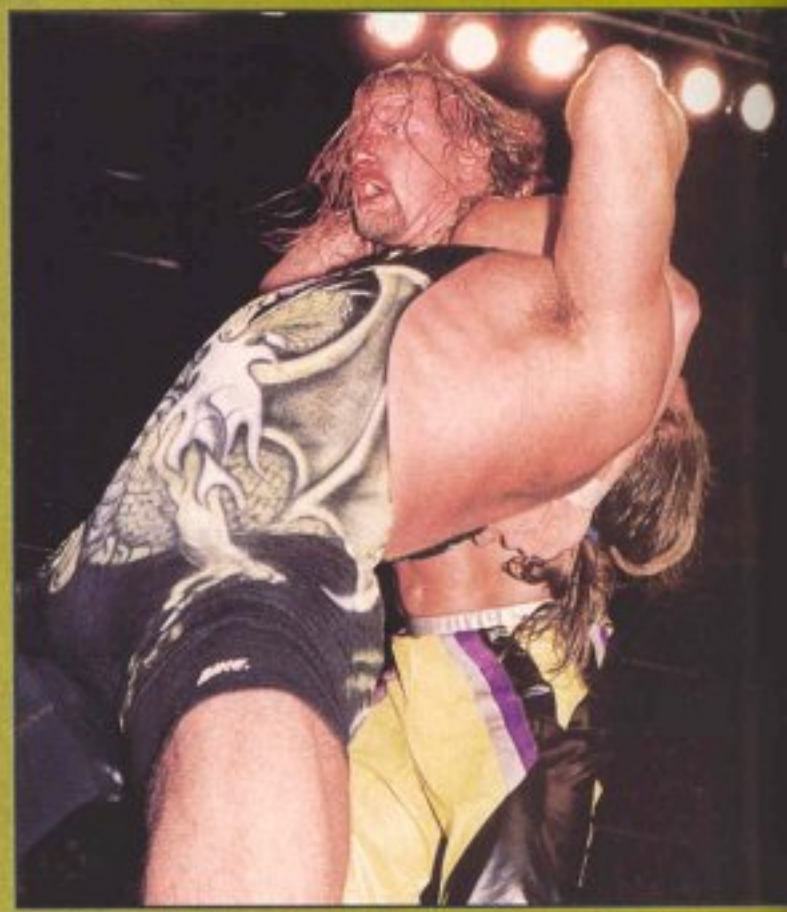
ECW Calendar of Events... visit www.ecwwrestling.com for updates!

Thursday	August 5	Dothan Civic Center	Dothan, Ala.
Friday	August 6	Boutwell Auditorium	Birmingham, Ala.
Saturday	August 7	Expo Center	Chattanooga, Tenn.
Thursday	August 12	TBA	Boston
Friday	August 13	TBA	Boston
Saturday	August 14	TBA	Boston
Thursday	August 19	Gwinnett Civic Center	Duluth, Ga.
Friday	August 20	Columbus Civic Center	Columbus, Ga.
Saturday	August 21	NW Georgia Convention Center	Dalton, Ga.
Sunday	August 22	Georgia Mountains Center	Gainesville, Ga.
Friday	August 28	ECW Arena	Philadelphia
Thursday	September 2	Manatee Civic Center	Sarasota, Fla.
Friday	September 3	War Memorial	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Sunday	September 5	Cocoa Sports Center	Cocoa Beach, Fla.
Monday	September 6	Zuma Beach Club	Orlando, Fla.
Sunday	September 19	Pay-per-view TBA	TBA
Thursday	October 7	Thibodeaux Civic Center	Thibodeaux, La.
Friday	October 8	Riverside Centroplex	Baton Rouge, La.
Saturday	October 9	Alexandria Riverfront Center	Alexandria, La.
Sunday	October 10	TBA	St. Bernard/Alario, La.







National Weekly Television Listings

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Check out Extreme Championship Wrestling on its national, weekly cable show, beginning on Friday, August 27, at 8 p.m. Eastern on The Nashville Network. Check your local listings for channel and time. ECW will also have its weekly shows on local stations as follows:

America One Network	Check Local Listings	Saturday	12:00 AM Eastern
USSB Satellite	Channel 905	Saturday	11:00 PM Eastern
USSB Satellite	Channel 905	Sunday	6:00 PM Eastern
USSB Satellite	Channel 905	Thursday	7:00 PM Eastern
Albany, Ga.	WRKL-TV 35	Saturday	9:00 PM Eastern
Albany, N.Y.	WBVG	Sunday	1:00 AM Eastern
Atlantic City/Wildwood, N.J.	WWAC-TV 53	Saturday	9:00 PM Eastern
Baton Rouge, La.	WGMB-TV / Fox 44	Friday	12:30 AM Central
Baton Rouge, La.	WGMB-TV / Fox 44	Wednesday (replay)	4:00 AM Central
Buffalo, N.Y.	WYNO/WB 49	Saturday	10:00 PM Eastern
Burlington/Plattsburgh, N.Y.	WBVT-TV 39	Saturday	1:00 AM Eastern
Carbondale, Ill.	SPC-TV	Friday	10:00 PM Central
Carbondale, Ill.	SPC-TV	Tuesday	7:00 PM Central
Chicago	WCIU 26	Saturday	3:00 AM Central
Cincinnati	W25 AI	Monday	10:00 PM Eastern
Columbus, Ga.	UA16	Saturday	7:00 PM Eastern
Columbus, Ga.	UA16	Wednesday (replay)	10:00 PM Eastern
Columbus, Ohio	WLWG-TV 62	Thursday	9:00 PM Eastern
Dayton, Ohio	WUCT-TV 51	Saturday	7:00 PM Eastern
Dayton, Ohio	WUCT-TV 51	Sunday (replay)	12:00 PM Eastern
Detroit	WADL-TV 38	Thursday	11:00 PM Central
Florida	Sunshine Network	Friday	2:00 AM Eastern
Fresno, Calif.	KGMC-TV 43	Friday	11:00 PM Pacific
Hampton, Va.	WPEN-TV	Saturday	7:00 PM Eastern
Indianapolis	WAV-TV 53	Sunday	5:00 PM Eastern
Indianapolis	WAV-TV 53	Tuesday	10:00 PM Eastern
Las Vegas, Nev.	KCNG-TV/UPN25	Saturday	1:00 PM Pacific
Long Island, N.Y.	WVVH-TV 10	Saturday	10:00 PM Eastern
Louisville, Ky.	WBNA-TV 21	Friday	1:00 AM Eastern
Memphis, Tenn.	WBII-TV 20	Saturday	10:30 PM Central
Miami Beach, Fla.	WAMI	Saturday	11:00 PM Eastern
Montgomery/Selma, Ala.	WAXC-TV 64	Monday	10:30 PM Central
Murray, Ky.	WQTV-TV 46	Saturday	11:00 PM Eastern
New Jersey	CTN	Saturday	4:00 PM Eastern
New York City	Madison Square Garden	Saturday	1:00 AM Eastern
Orlando, Fla.	WRBW-TV / UPN 65	Friday	1:00 AM Eastern
Philadelphia	WGTW-TV 48	Friday	10:00 PM Eastern
Philadelphia	WGTW-TV 48	Saturday (replay)	9:00 PM Eastern
Pittsburgh	WBGN	Saturday	10:30 AM Eastern
Pittsburgh	WBGN	Saturday (replay)	11:30 PM Eastern
Twin Falls, Idaho	KKHM-TV 55	Saturday	11:00 AM Mountain
Washington D.C.	Media General Cable Ch.51	Tuesday	6:00 PM Eastern
Youngstown, Ohio	WFYZ	Saturday	2:00 AM Eastern

HARD

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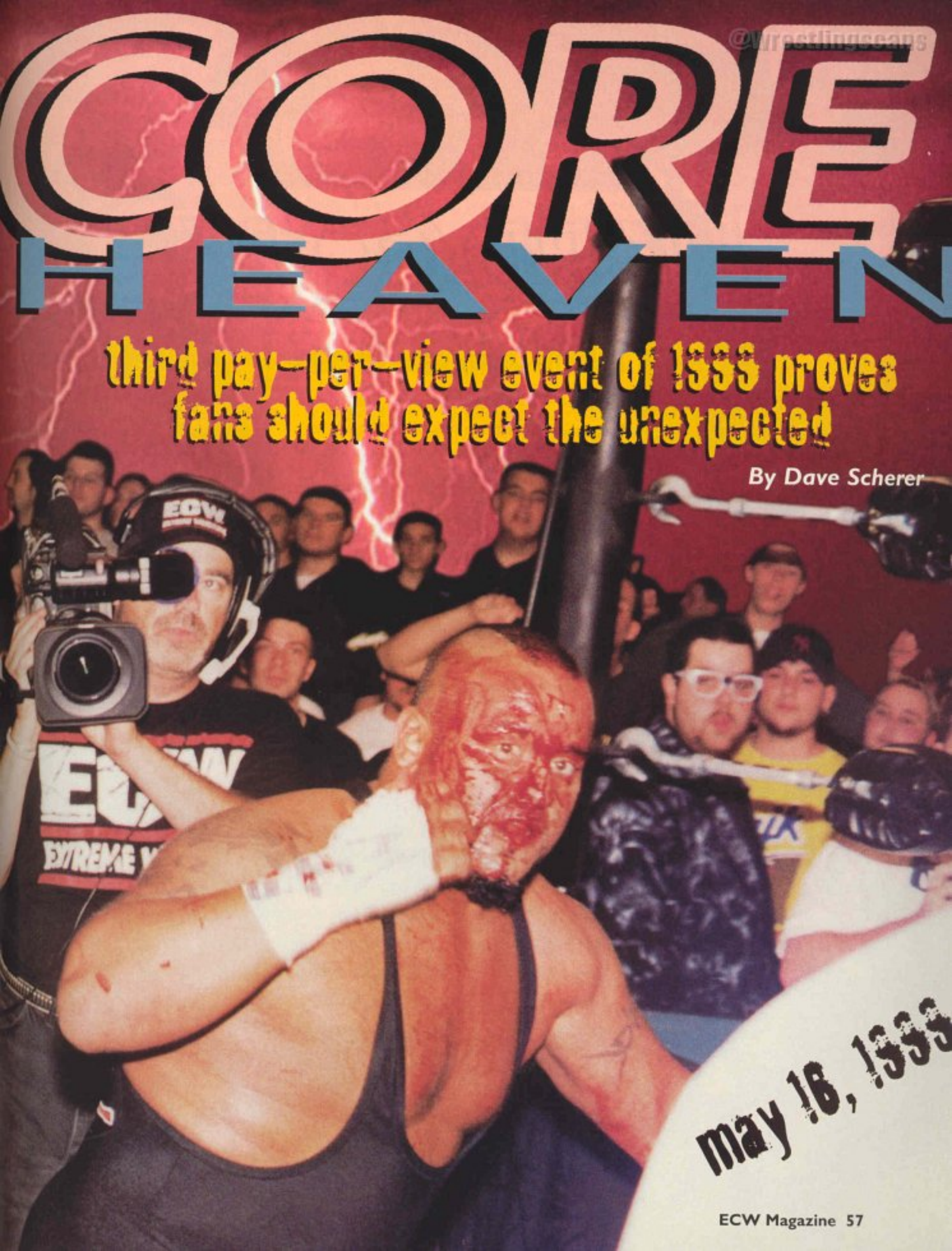
CORE HEAVEN

third pay-per-view event of 1999 proves fans should expect the unexpected

By Dave Scherer



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HARD CORE HEAVEN

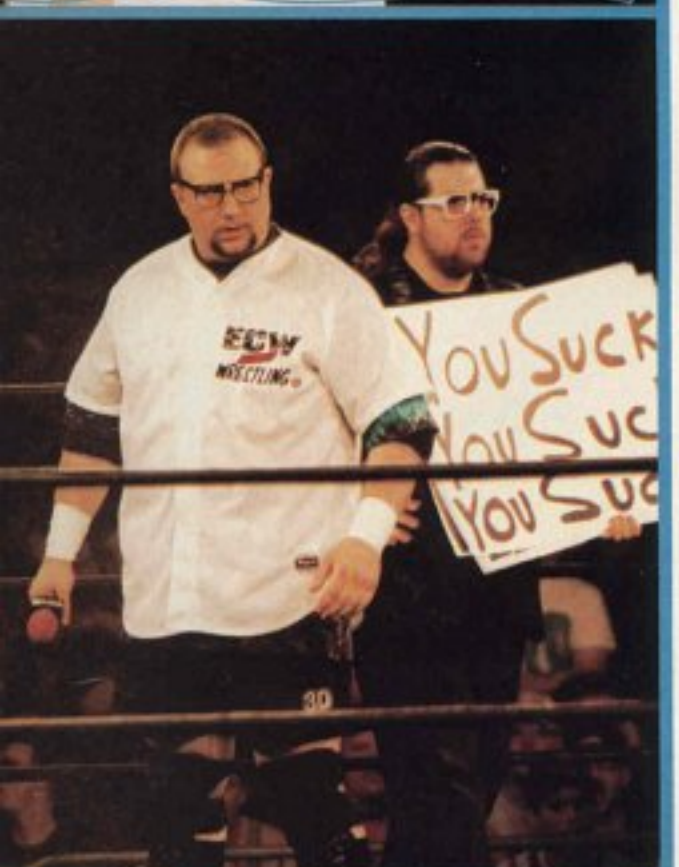
Extreme Championship Wrestling

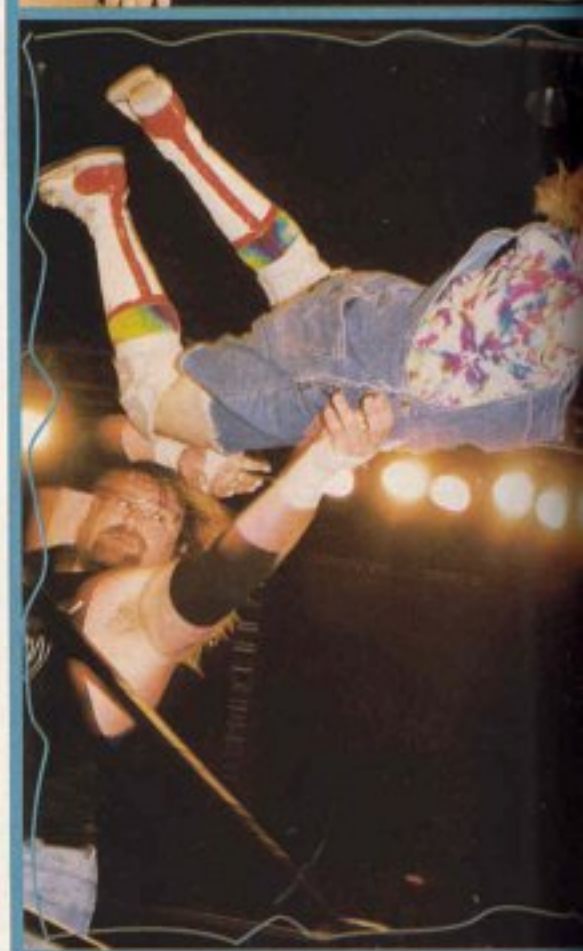
... invaded the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on May 16, 1999, for its third pay-per-view event of the year. The roughly 2,000 fans on hand were rowdy and boisterous throughout the night, into everything ECW threw their way.

In typical ECW style, this was an event during which nothing came off as expected. For instance, how many times have you seen the main event of the evening as the first match on the show? Or a major star, Shane Douglas, miss the show and another, Sid, come in and take his place? Or Joey Styles, who usually handles ECW broadcasts by himself, have Cyrus crash the booth and join him for a few matches? Only in ECW!

Having the main event first definitely set the "anything can happen" tone for the evening.

Before the show went live, Skull Von Krush scored a convincing victory over Danny Doring. After that, the cameras rolled and the excitement continued for a live audience.





for ECW World heavyweight title

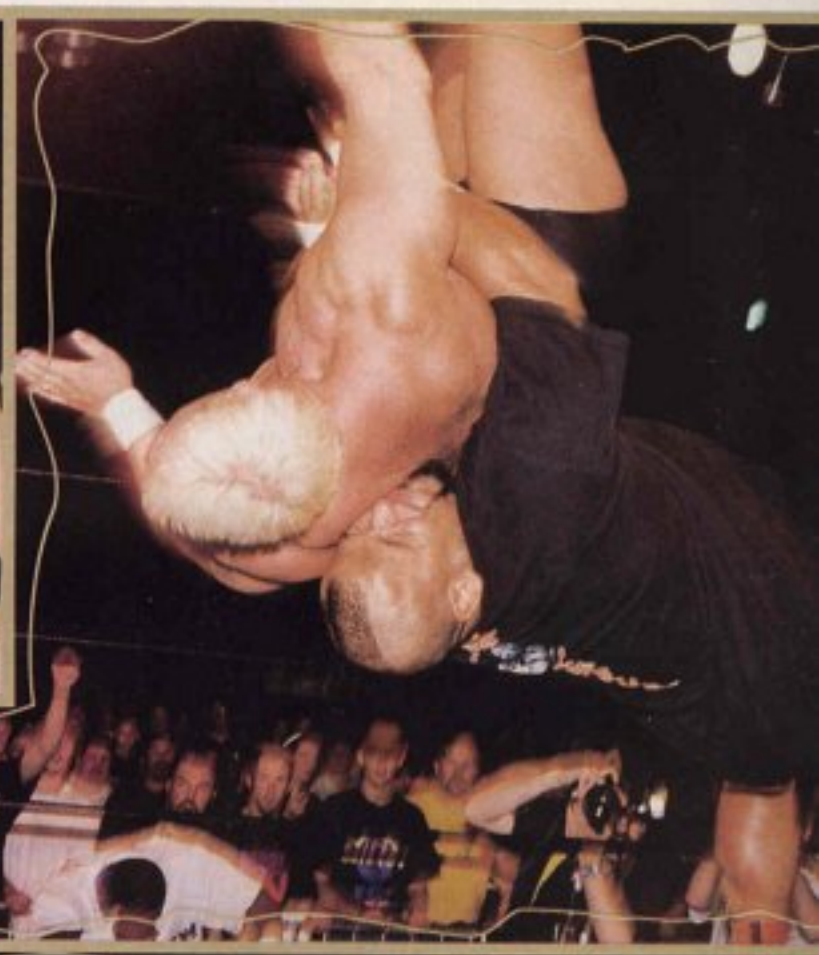
@wrestlingsecans

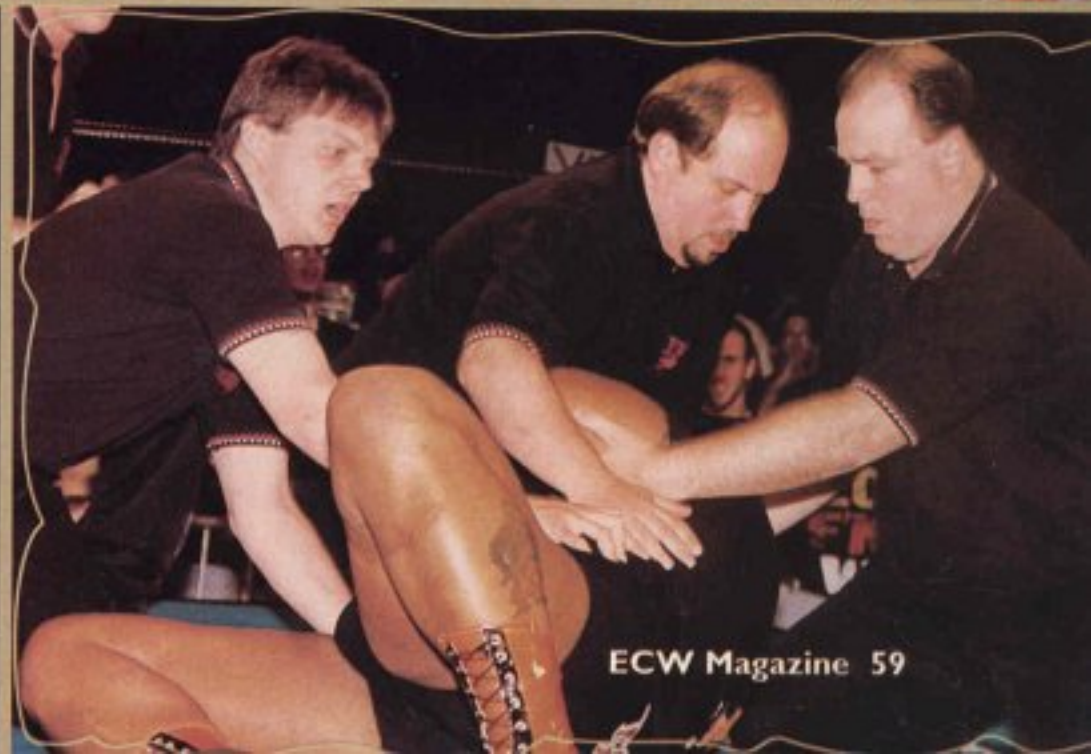
Taz (Champion) vs. Chris Candido

Leading up to the PPV, Taz and Candido had taken turns attacking each other. Taz choked out Candido at the ECW Arena and Candido, after faking a serious neck injury, went after Taz in Queens, N.Y. The world champion had told Candido in the weeks preceding the match that he was going to end his career and bounce him out of ECW at Hardcore Heaven.

Candido took the champion's threats to heart, and as Hardcore Heaven began, he came out to the ring with Tammy Lynn Sytch and ran down Taz. Candido told the crowd he had taken out an insurance policy and brought out the Dudley Boyz, D-Von and Buh Buh Ray. He then called Taz out. Taz came roaring out and, on his way to the ring, double clotheslined the Dudleys.

Candido's offense was limited to one powerbomb on the champion because Taz slapped on the Tazmission and before the Dudleys could react, choked out Candido in a quick 1:09. After the submission, the Dudleys hit the ring and attacked the champion, leaving him in the uncharacteristic position of being prone on the mat after receiving the Dudley Death Drop ("3-D").





@wrestlingscans

Dudley Boyz (Champions) vs. Balls Mahoney and Spike Dudley

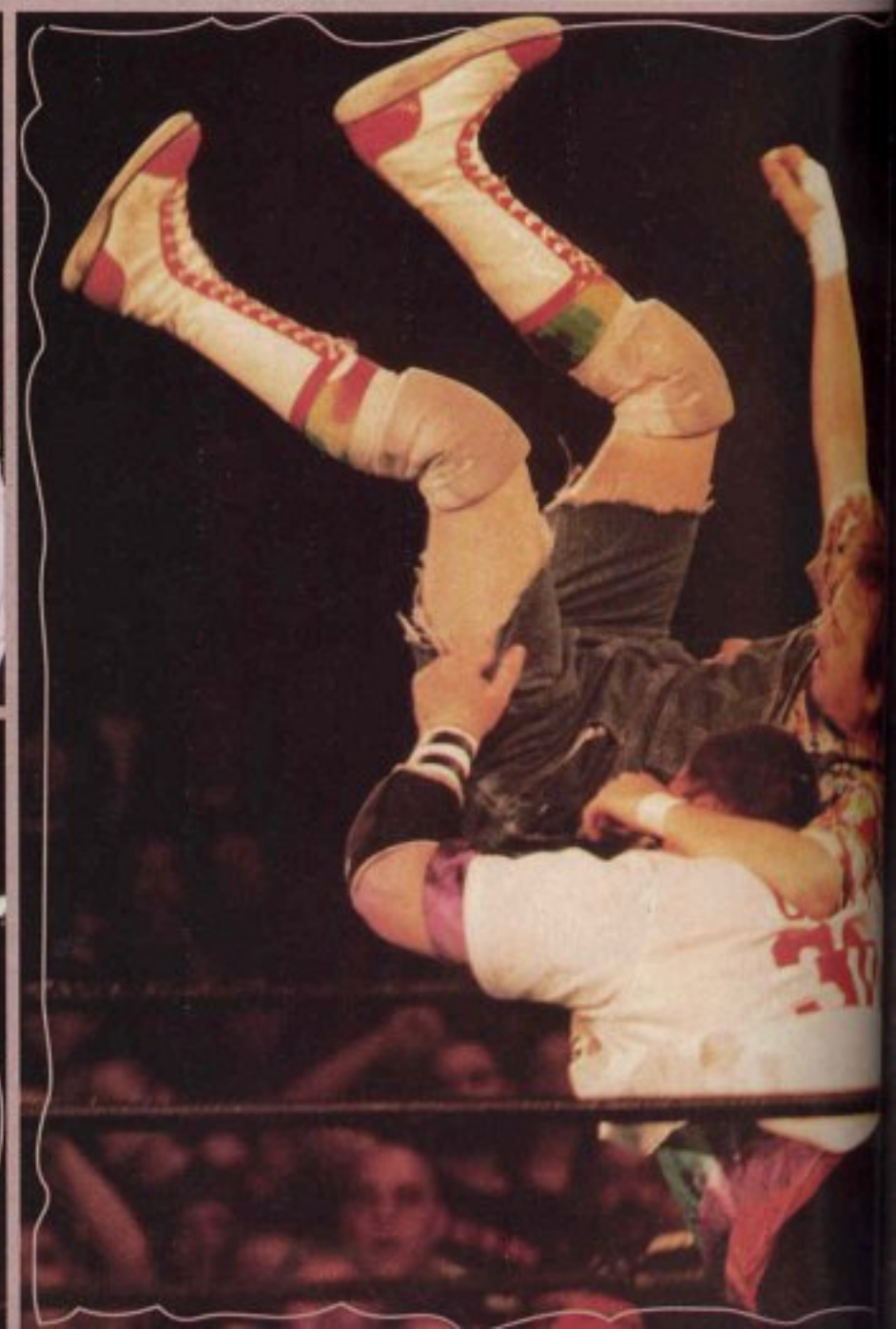
for ECW World Tag Team Title

Taz was helped out of the ring after he was nailed with the 3-D, but the Dudleys remained. They had no match signed for the show, but the Dudleys didn't let that stop them from issuing an open challenge to anyone who would fight them. Buh Buh listed the people that he said the Dudleys had run out of the promotion and called out anyone with "the balls" to face them to come fight.

Balls Mahoney, who accidentally injured his partner, Axl Rotten, with an errant fireball to the face at ECW Arena a week before the PPV, answered the challenge alone. Balls did well early on, but the Dudleys quickly got the upper hand by double-teaming him. Spike Dudley then ran out to even up the sides.

Buh Buh hit an intense powerbomb on Spike off the top rope that sent him crashing through a table. Before Buh Buh could get the pin, however, Balls made the save. Balls then creamed both Dudleys with chairshots and found himself alone in the ring with Joel Gertner. Gertner hit Balls with a weak chairshot and then "threw fire" at Balls by flicking lit matches at him.

Balls then showed him how it's done by blowing a monstrous fireball at Gertner, leaving him prone on the mat. While Balls was marveling at what he had done to Gertner, the champions came in from behind and got the pin, hitting the 3-D on Balls in 8:01.



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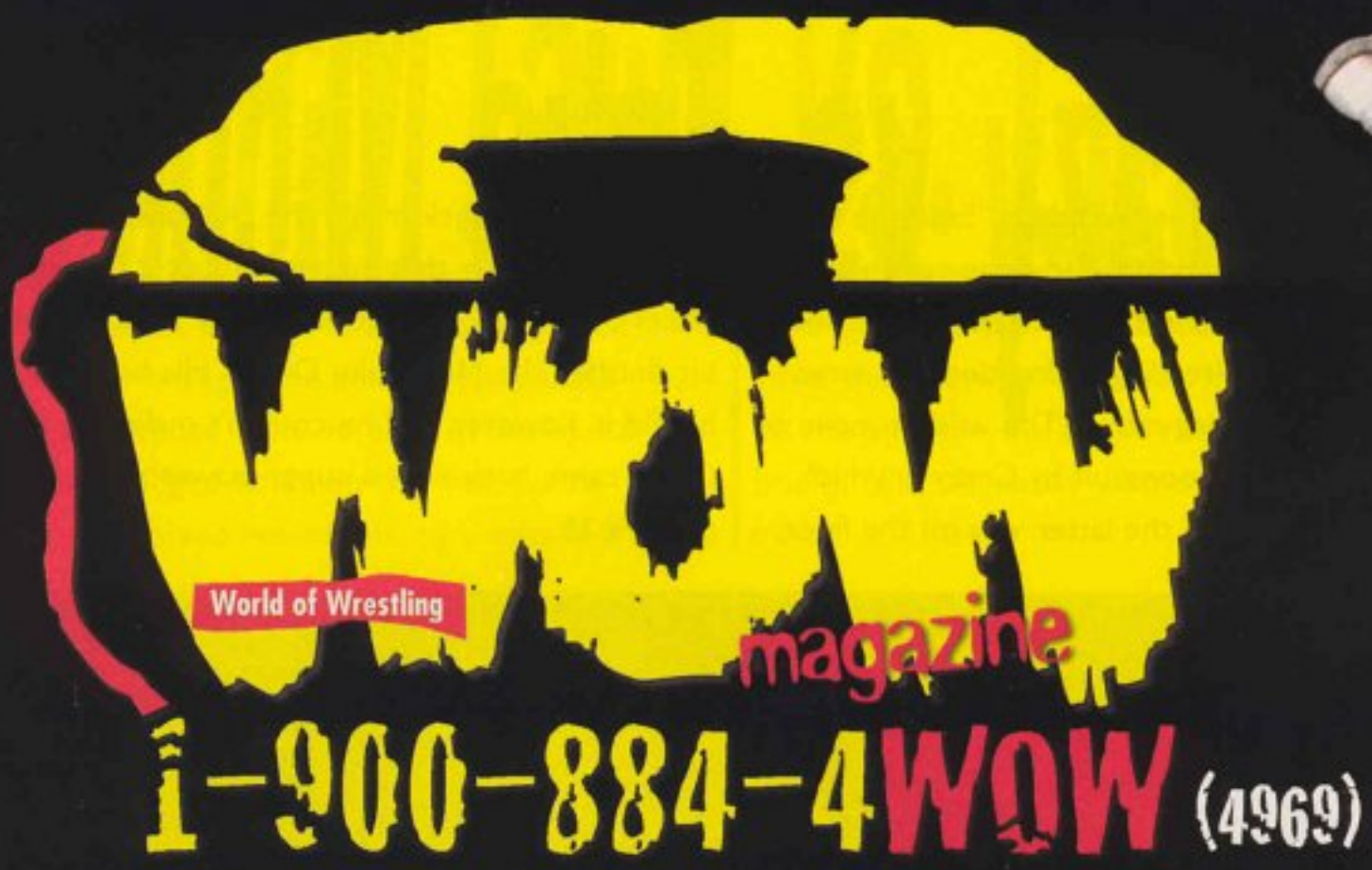

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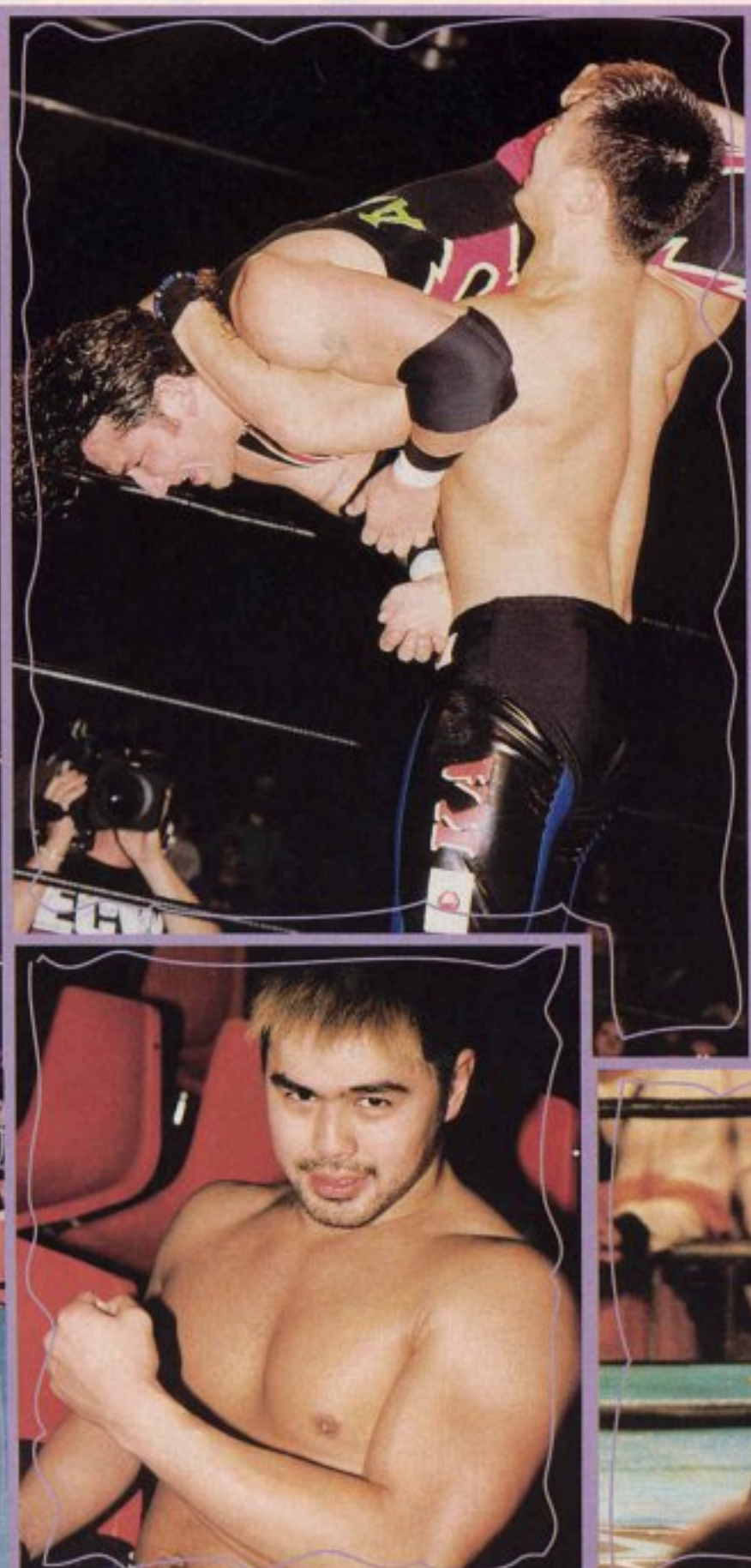
Hosted by WOW Editor-in-Chief and Wrestling Insider, Bill Apter.

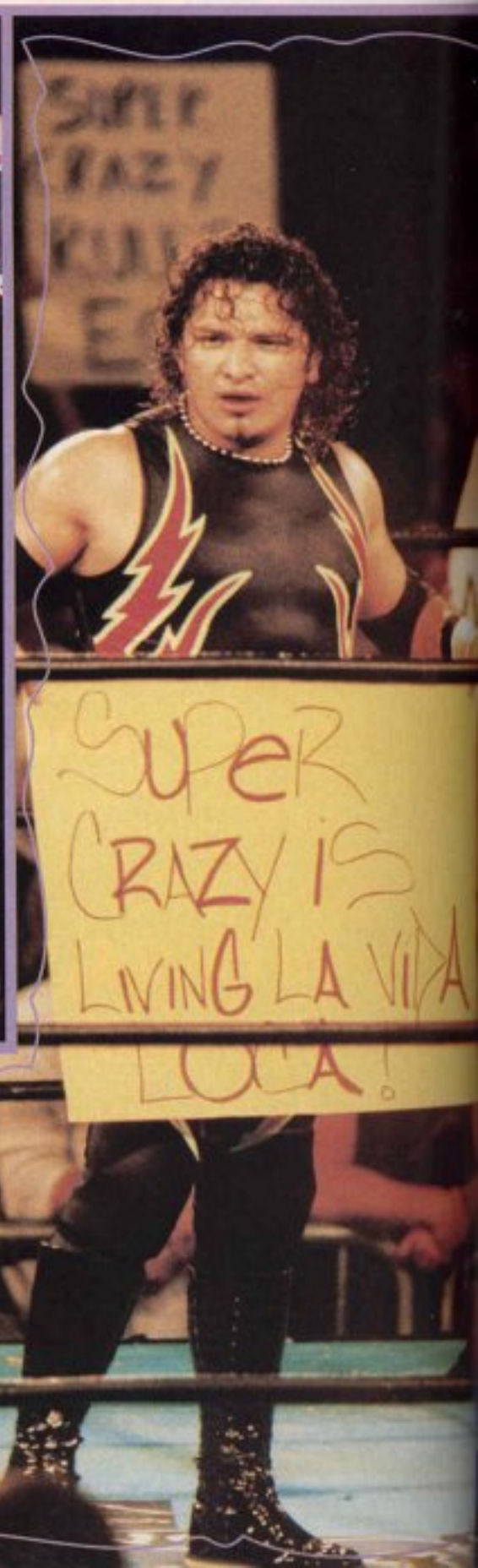
@wrestlingscans

Super Crazy vs. Taka Michinoku

This was another of the incredible "Extreme Lucha" matches that Crazy has had since coming to ECW. Taka, without the constraints he faces when he works for the World Wrestling Federation, did some of his once-signature flying moves. The wildest move of the match was an Asai moonsault by Crazy in which he plowed into Taka while the latter was on the floor.

They went back inside the ring, and Taka missed a moonsault. Crazy then hit three successive moonsaults on Michinoku, but Taka came back and hit his big finisher, the Michinoku Driver. His knee buckled as he did it, however, and he couldn't make the cover. Crazy came back with a super powerbomb to get the pin in 8:26.





Yoshihiro Tajiri vs. Little Guido

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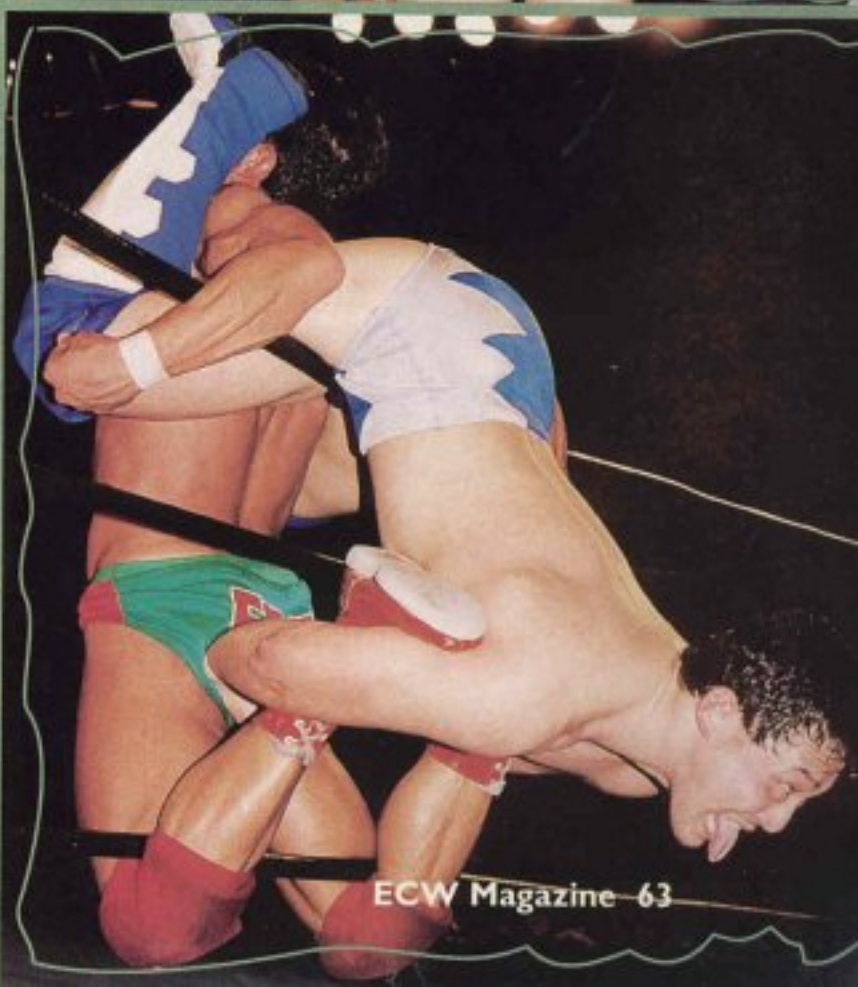
This match signaled a change in the Little Guido character, as Styles and Cyrus discussed Guido's strong amateur background and shooting skills. Guido showed those skills off early in the match as both men exchanged holds on the mat. Guido took to the air with mixed results, hitting a missile drop-kick but missing a plancha. Tajiri didn't miss, however, coming off the top rope on both Guido and Big Sal while they were on the floor. Tajiri then went back on the offensive inside the ring, and Sal interfered briefly. Tajiri ultimately won the match with a gourd-buster in 11:04.



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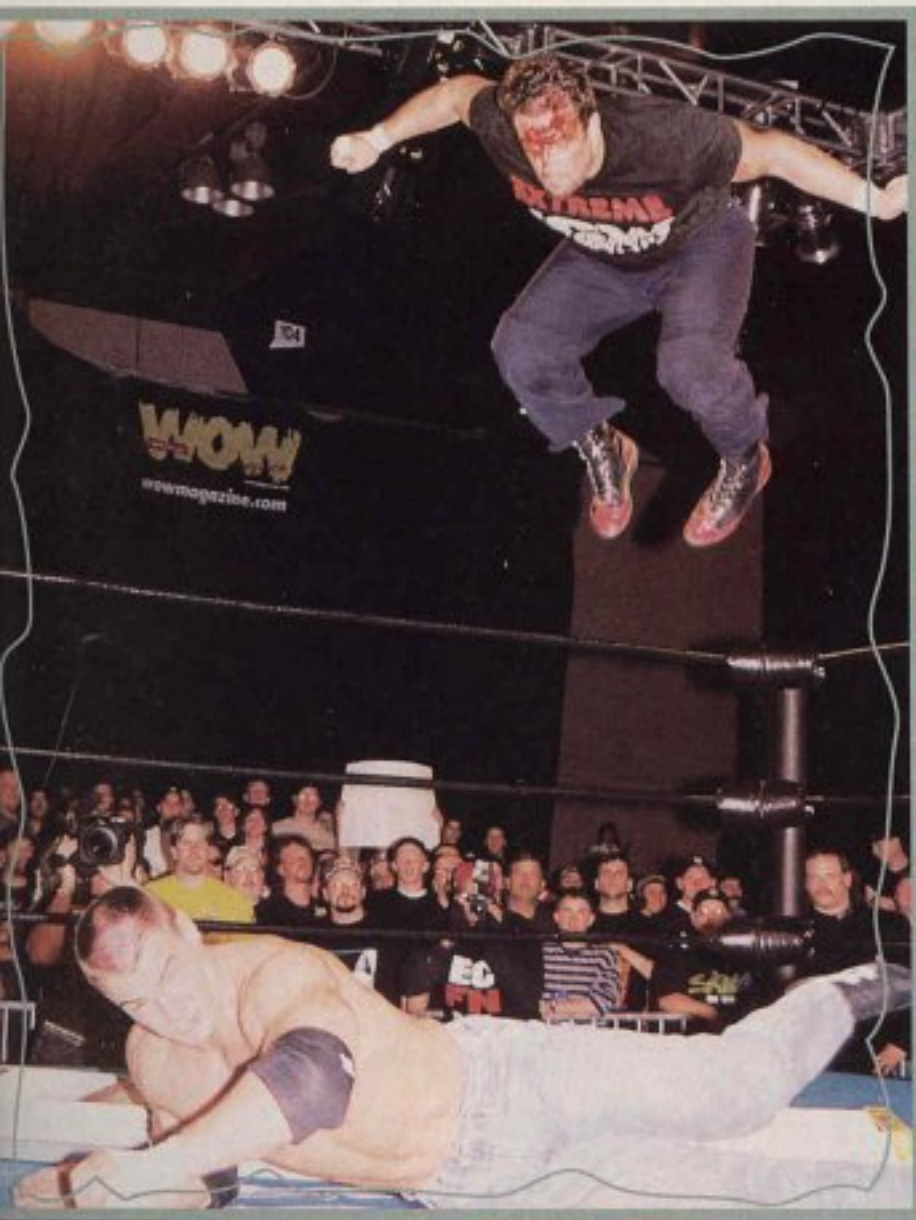
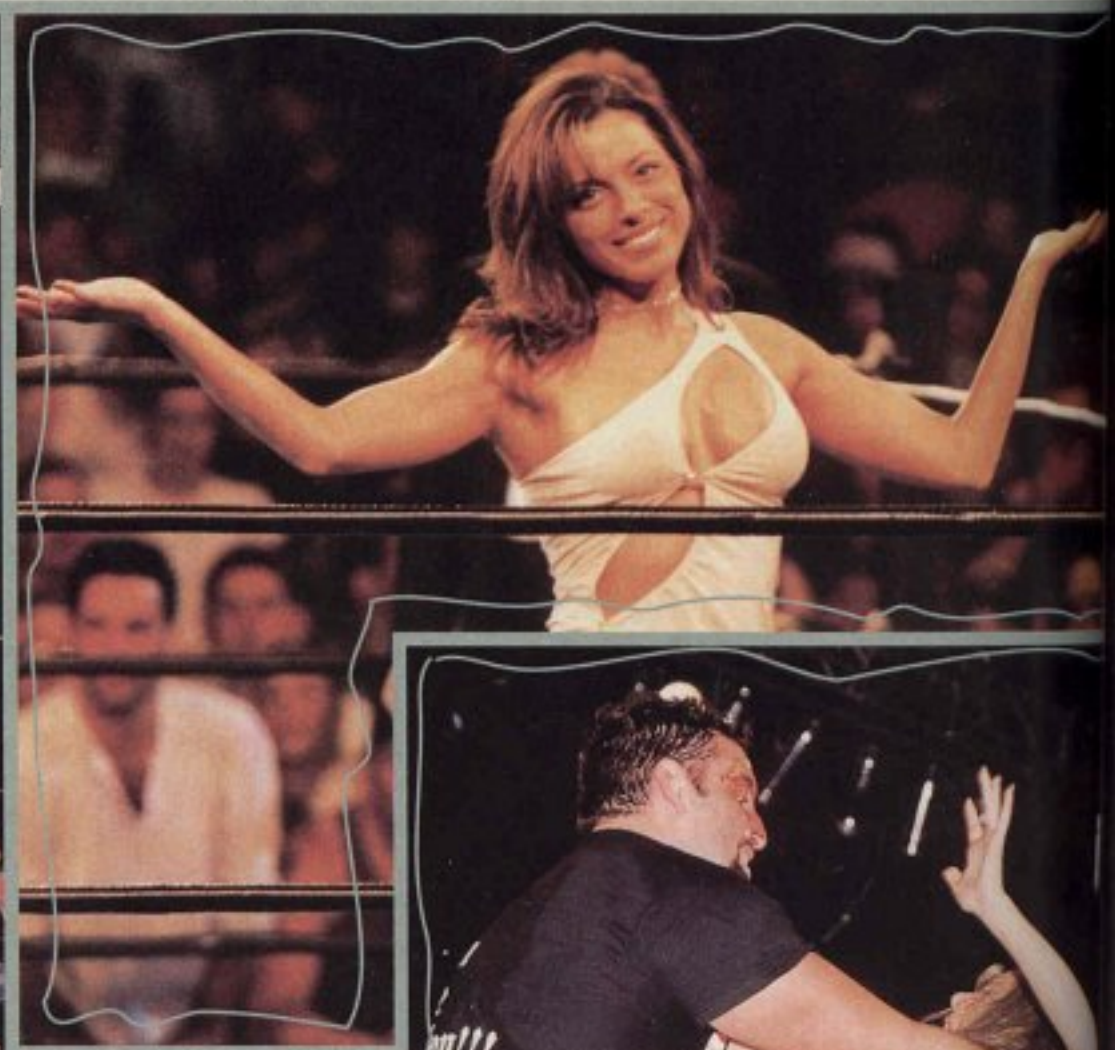
Tommy Dreamer vs. Lance Storm

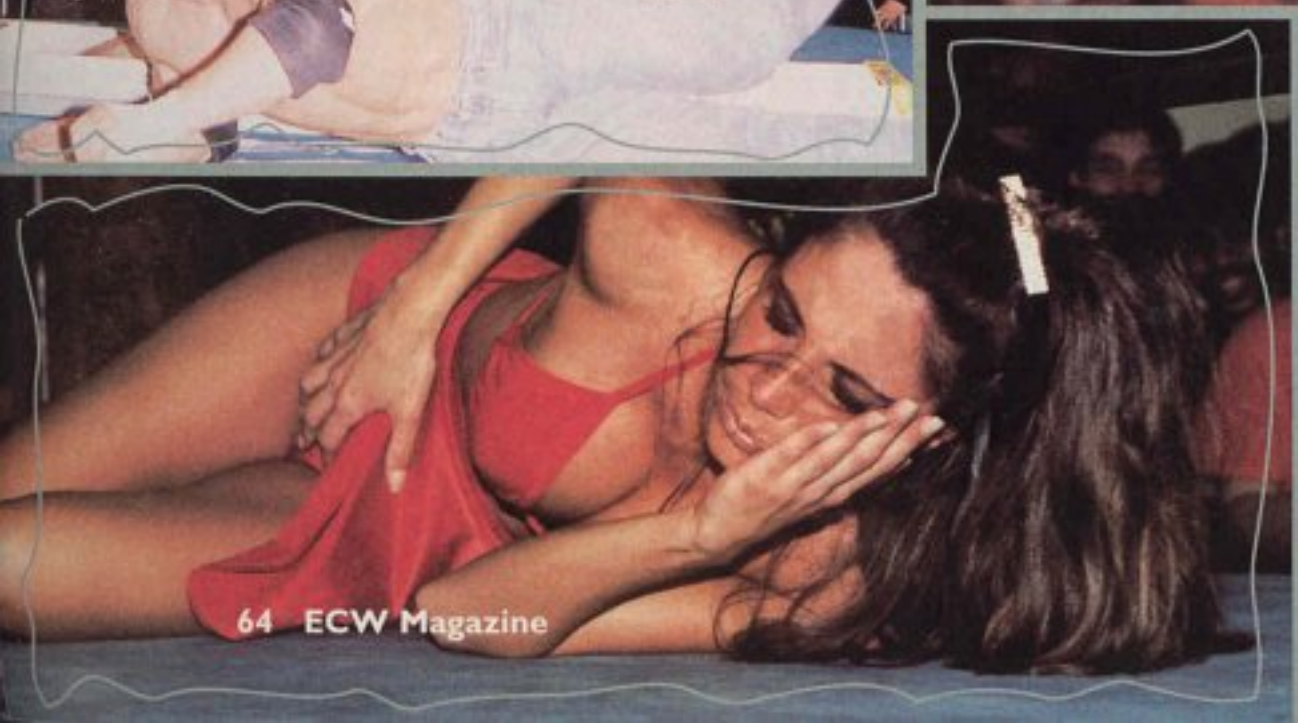
Storm came out to the ring with Tammy Lynn Bytch while Dreamer emerged with Francine. To his credit, Dreamer wrestled with a 102-degree fever and a respiratory infection, and this bout was a brawl from start to finish. Dreamer was busted open early from a chairshot, and Storm was thrown out of the ring through a table. Later, they pounded each other into a ladder, and somehow it knocked out the referee.

In the best move of the match, Dreamer set up a table in the ring. He took Storm up to the top rope and put Lance through it with a Spicoli Driver. It was amazing. The referee was still knocked out, however, so Dreamer could not get the pin.

Cyrus, who by this point had been thrown out of the broadcast booth by Joey Styles, ran in to help Storm, but before he could do anything, Francine decked him with a spear and nailed him with a Bronco Buster. Bytch then ran in and got into a catfight with Francine. Dreamer saved his valet by piledriving Bytch. This gave Storm time to recover and put a trashcan over Tommy's head. He nailed the can with a nasty spinkick, winning the match in 13:43 when the referee regained consciousness.







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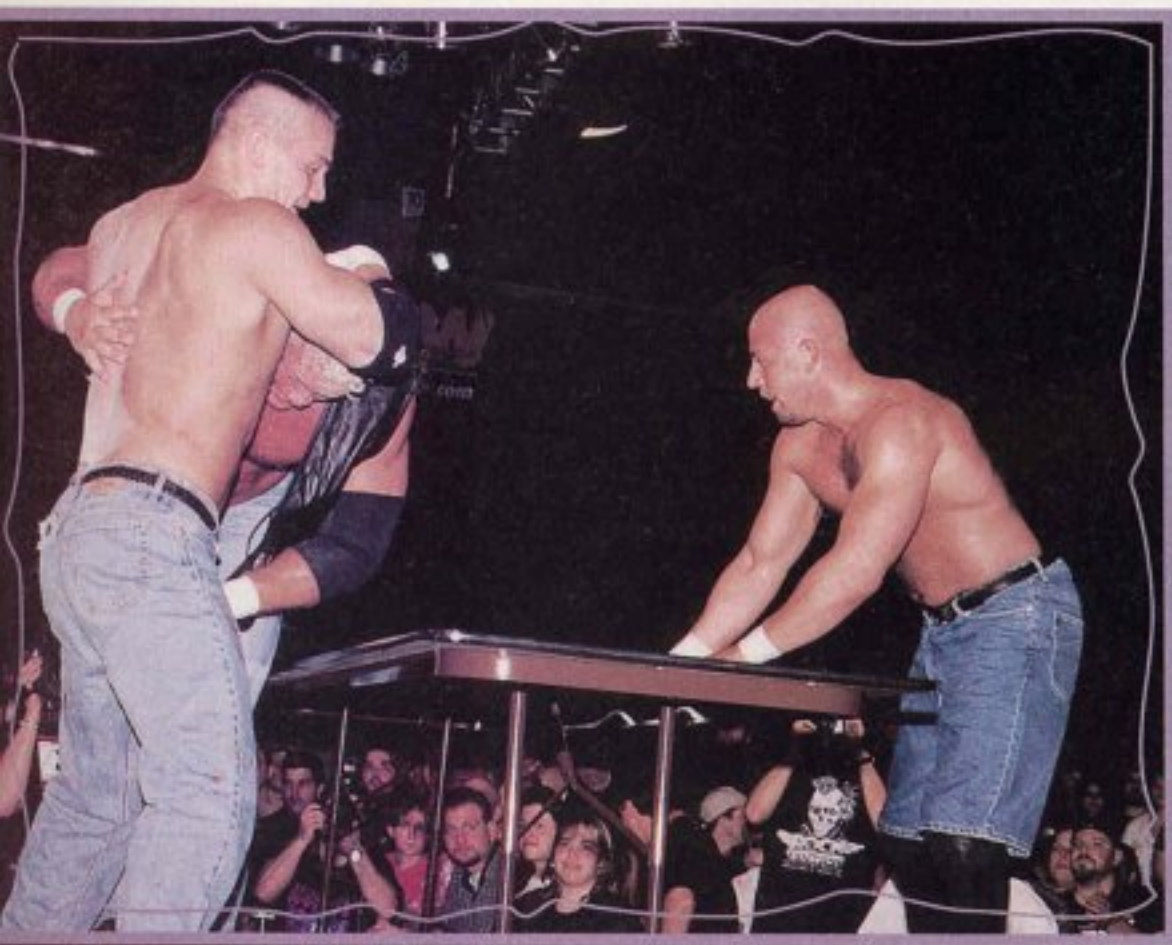
Sid vs. Justin Credible

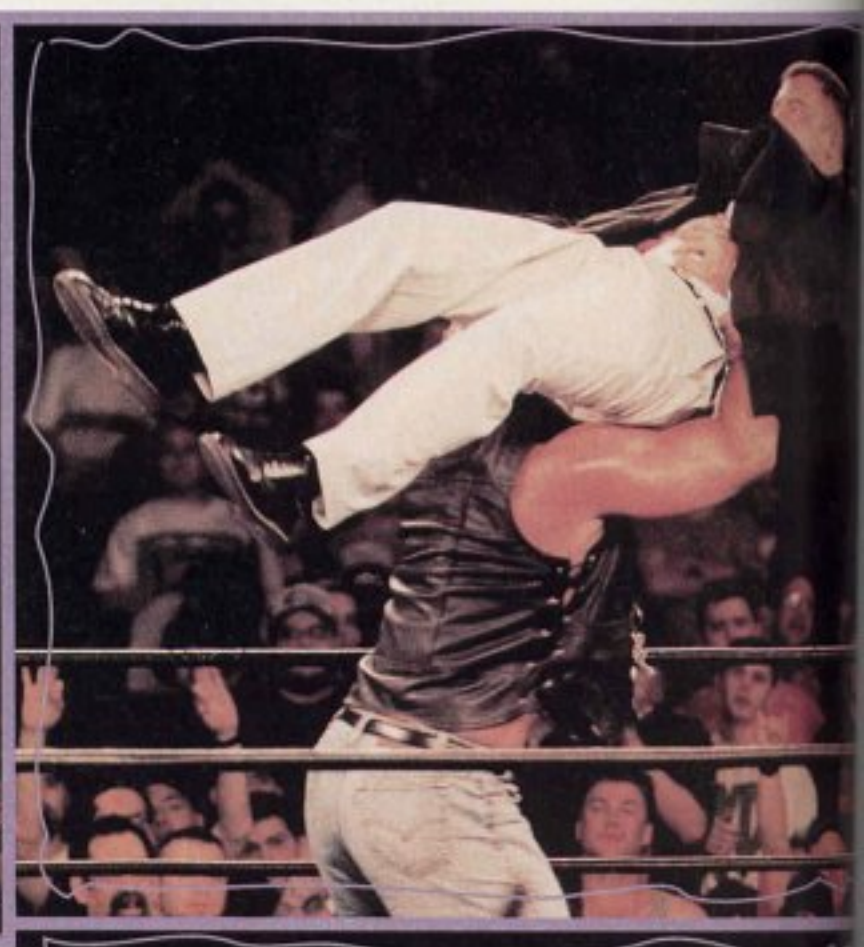
This match was supposed to feature Shane Douglas against Justin Credible, but Douglas had a disagreement with ECW owner Paul Heyman a few days before the card and did not come to the show. Heyman booked Sid two days before the card in case Douglas did not make it, and the move paid off.

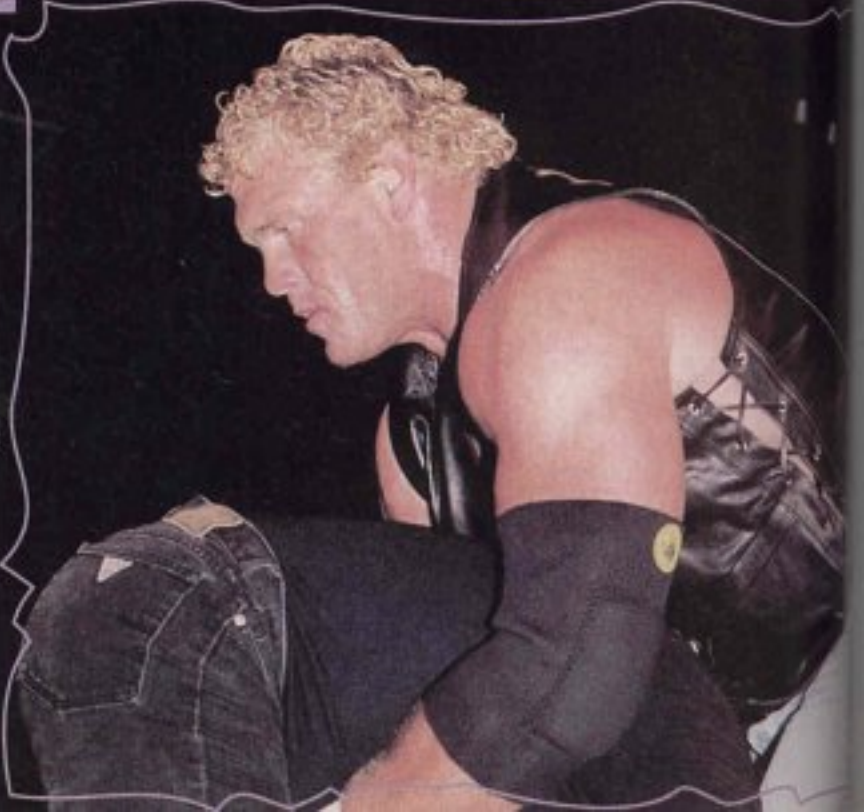
Credible emerged before the match with his entourage and said he was a one-man crime spree. Judge Jeff Jones came out and said that Credible was "guilty as charged" and brought out Sid, who got a deafening ovation from the crowd. This was a short match in which Sid seemed to go nuts. After he nailed Credible with a chokeslam, Lance Storm ran in for the DQ at 1:59. Sid wasn't fazed, however, and chokeslammed Jason.

Storm and Credible threw powder into Sid's eyes and laid him on a table. At that point Sabu, whom Credible had been mouthing off about for weeks, ran out to ringside and hit Storm, Credible and Sid with a chair. Sabu went to the top rope and launched himself on Sid, putting him through a table.

Storm, Credible and Sabu left. Sid got up, saw Jones and snapped, laying him out with a powerbomb.







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Rob Van Dam vs. Jerry Lynn

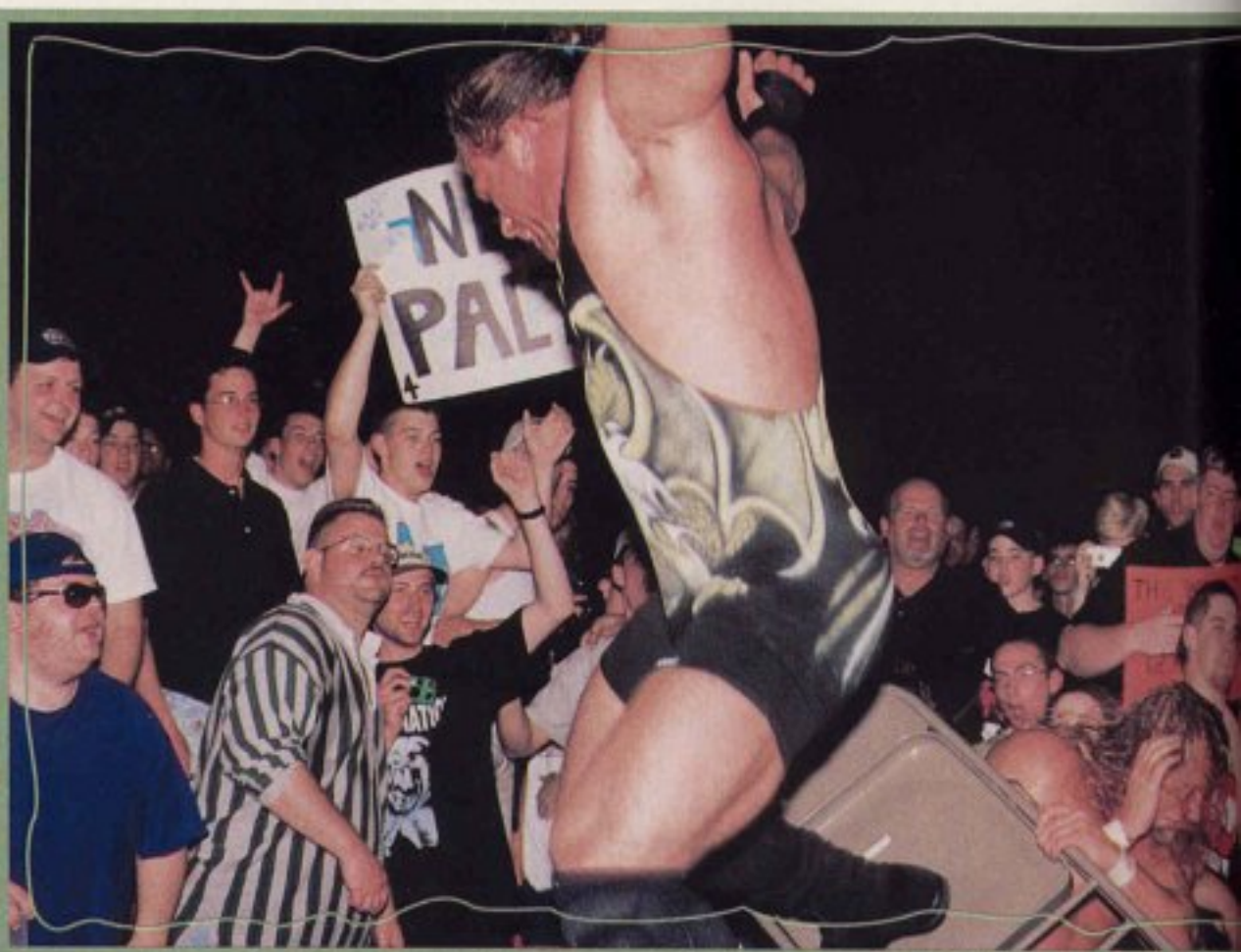
(for ECW TV title)

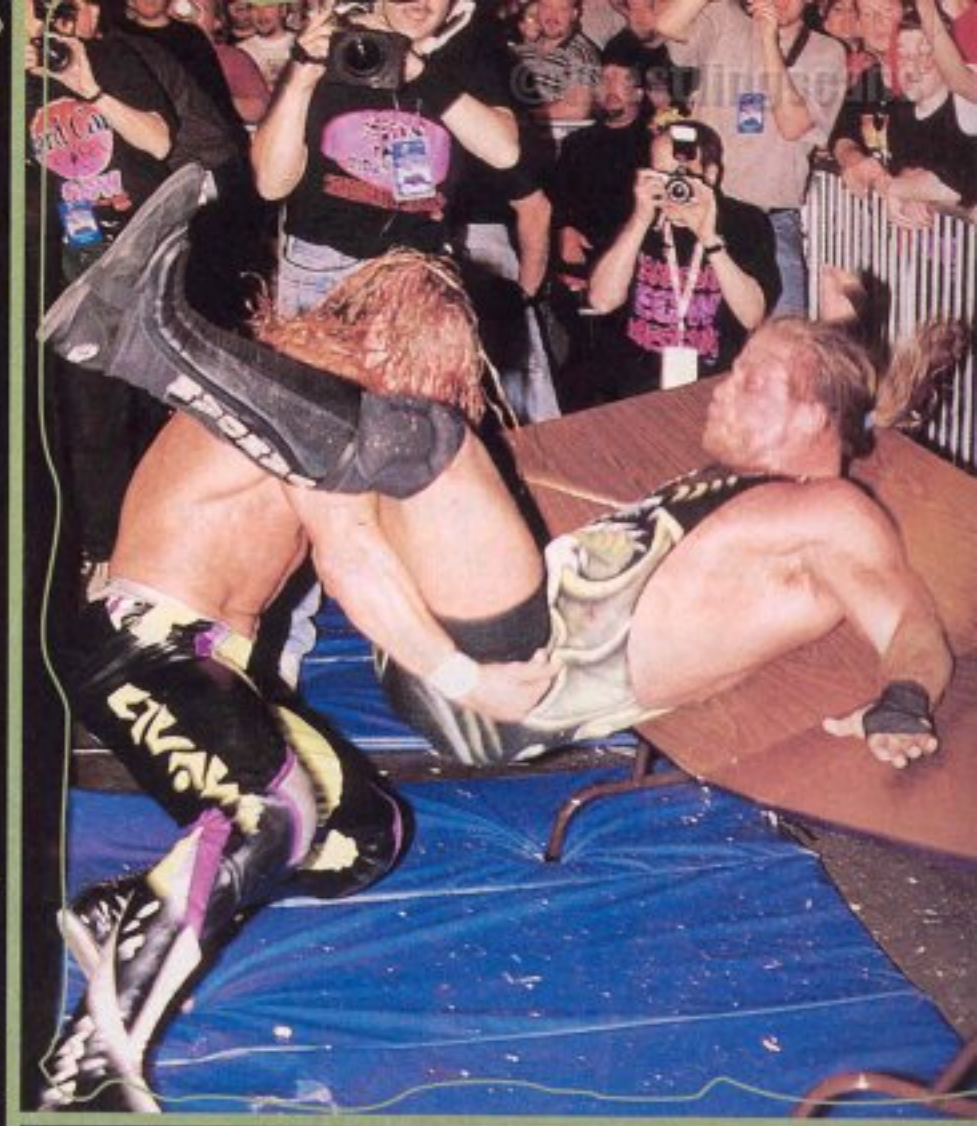
Van Dam and Lynn had a tough act to follow in a rematch of the excellent overtime bout they had during the Living Dangerously pay-per-view in March. Amazingly, the sequel ended up being better than the original. For the first few minutes of the match, they felt each other out, but a Lynn elbow changed all that, busting open Van Dam's eye.

Then the flying began. After a stunning series of moves, Van Dam sent Lynn tumbling out onto the floor. On his way, Lynn's legs got caught in the ropes, and he landed face first on the concrete floor. Lynn's first thought was that he might have fractured his skull, but he got his bearings and continued in the match despite bleeding profusely from his head.

Van Dam creamed Lynn with a Van Daminator while they were in the crowd. Van Dam then put Lynn through a table and followed that with a corkscrew guillotine legdrop as Lynn was draped on the guardrail. Lynn came back, however, and put Van Dam through a table with a sunset flip-powerbomb combination.

Bill Alfonso tried to help Van Dam by bringing in a chair, but Lynn took it and nailed "Fonzie" with it. Lynn then went after Van Dam with the chair, but the TV champion turned it up a notch and hit a split-legged moonsault, a Van Daminator and then a Five Star Frog Splash (on which he got incredible height) to win the match in 26:55. After the match, the men high-fived each other in an act of mutual respect.





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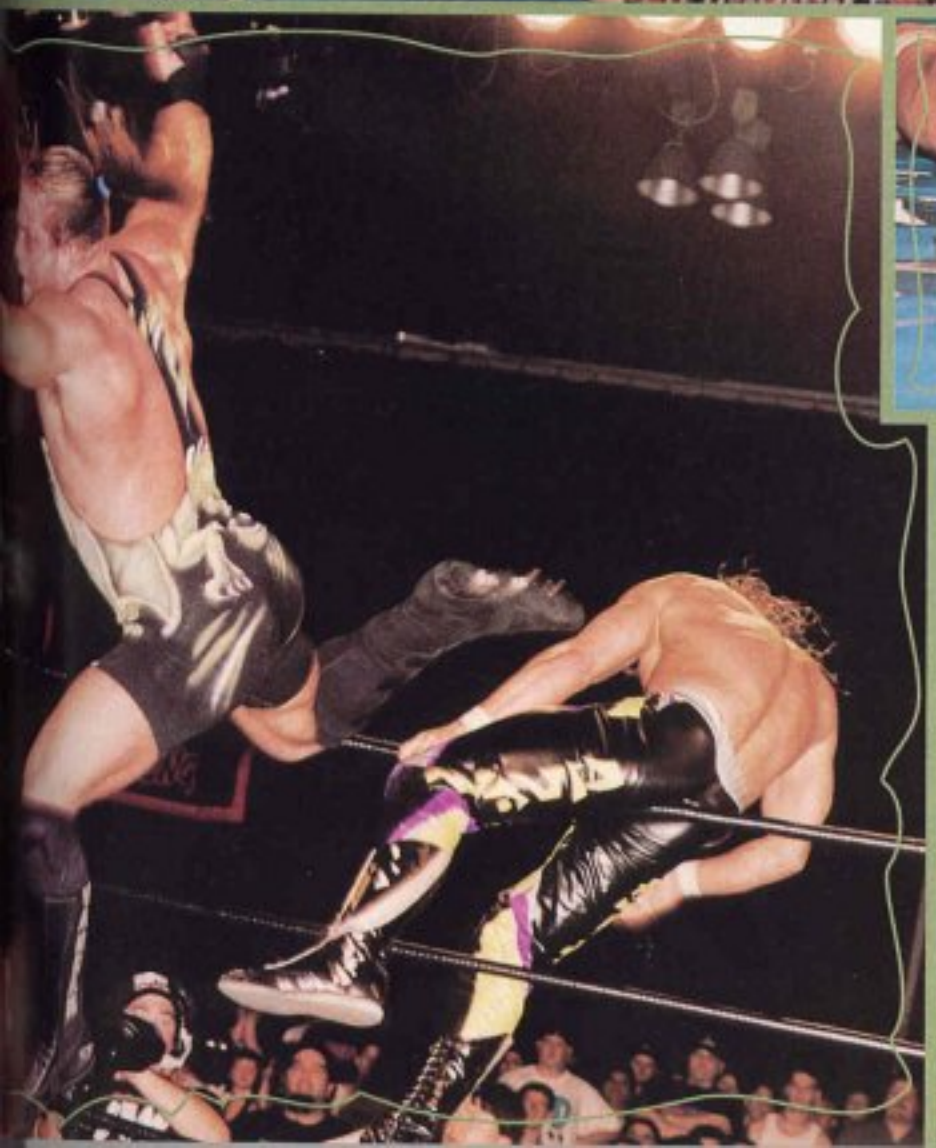

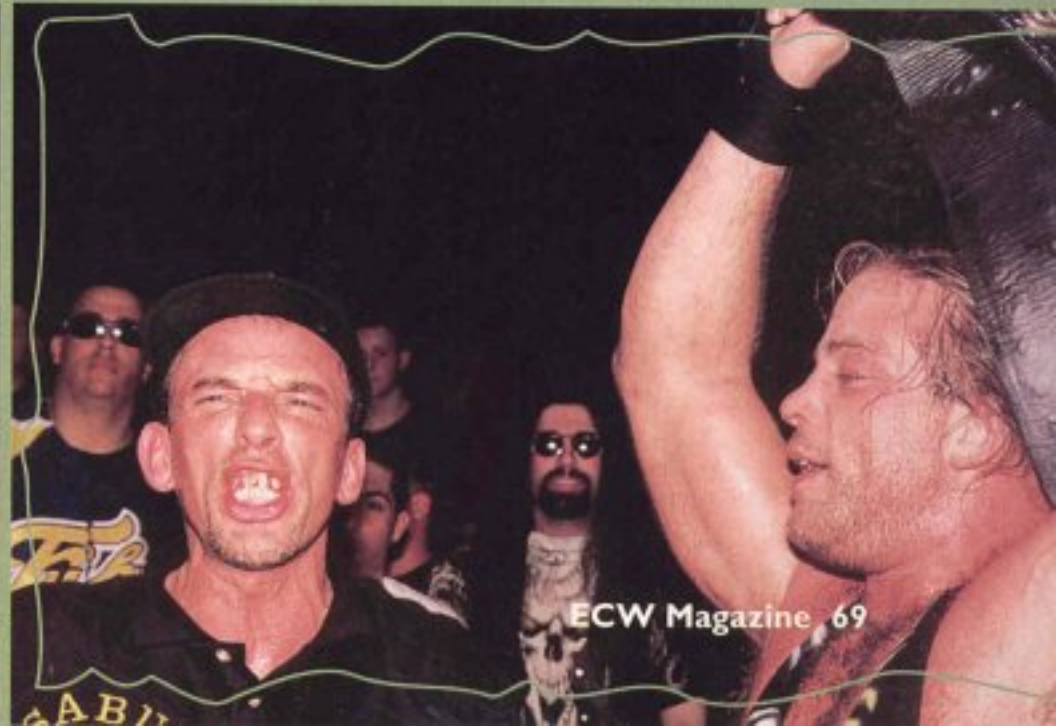

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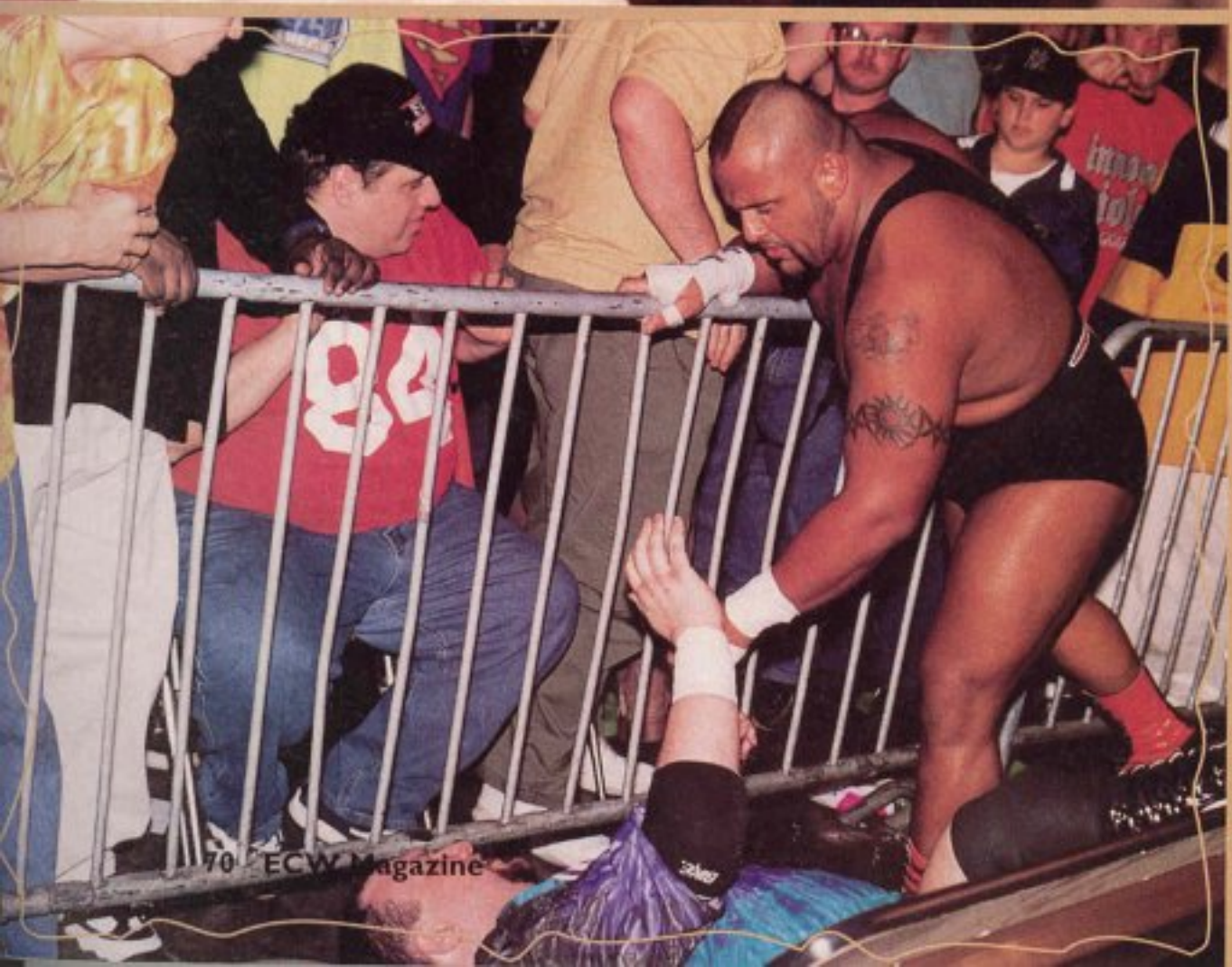
ECW World Heavyweight Title

Taz (Champion) vs.

Throughout Hardcore Heaven, fans had seen backstage scenes in which Joel Gertner, writhing in pain after being burned by the fireball, paid the Dudley Boyz to take out a list of wrestlers. They attacked Nova, Rod Price and their former partner, Jack Victory. Taz did not find the Dudley Boyz's antics amusing, so he did an interview running them down. The Dudleys, joined by the returning Big Dick Dudley, then tried to tick off Taz even more by beating up his cousin, Chris Chetti. Buh Buh came out to the ring and said that D-Von had planned to take Taz's title, but he broke his hand punching Chetti's head. Because of



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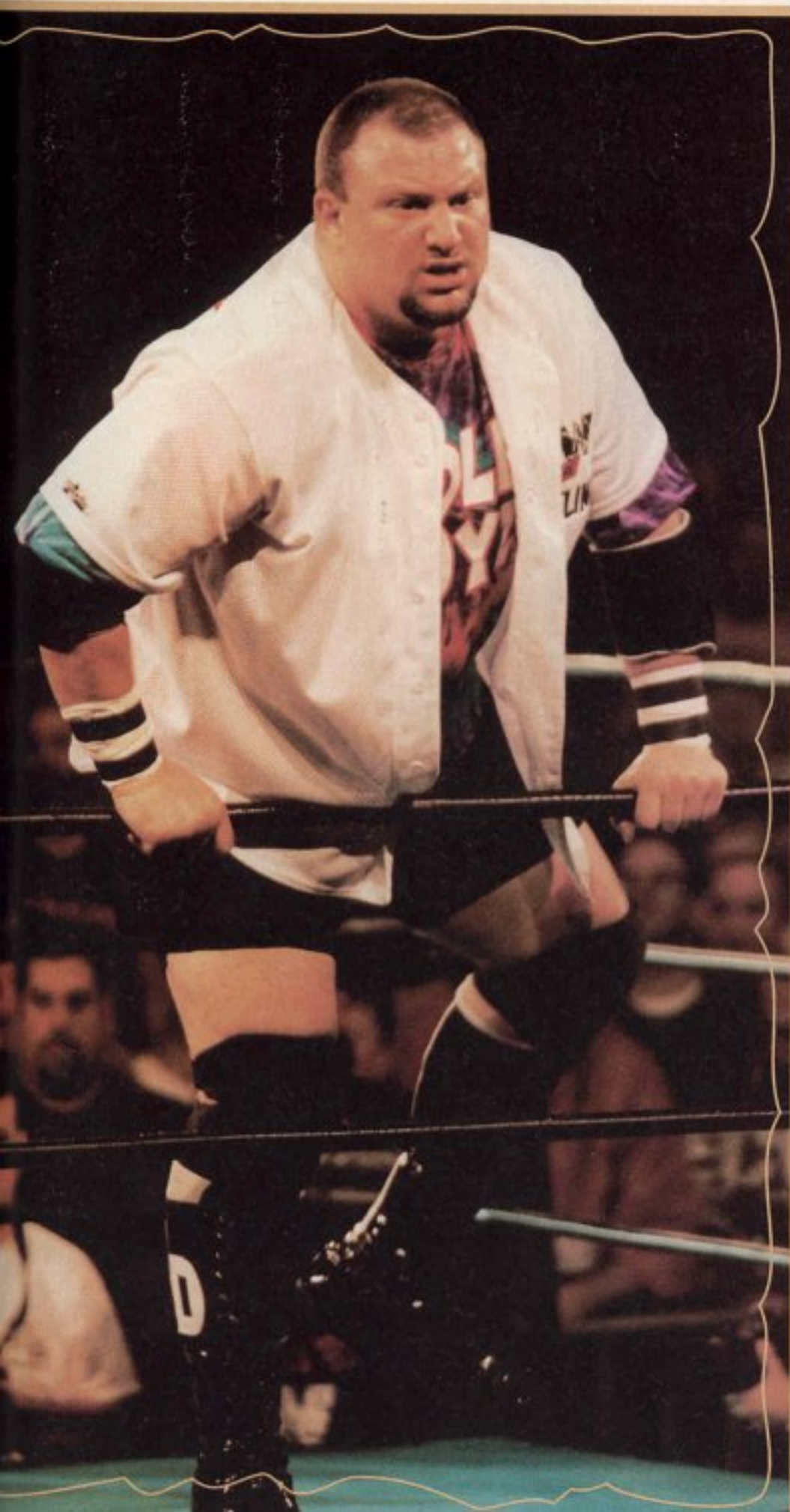
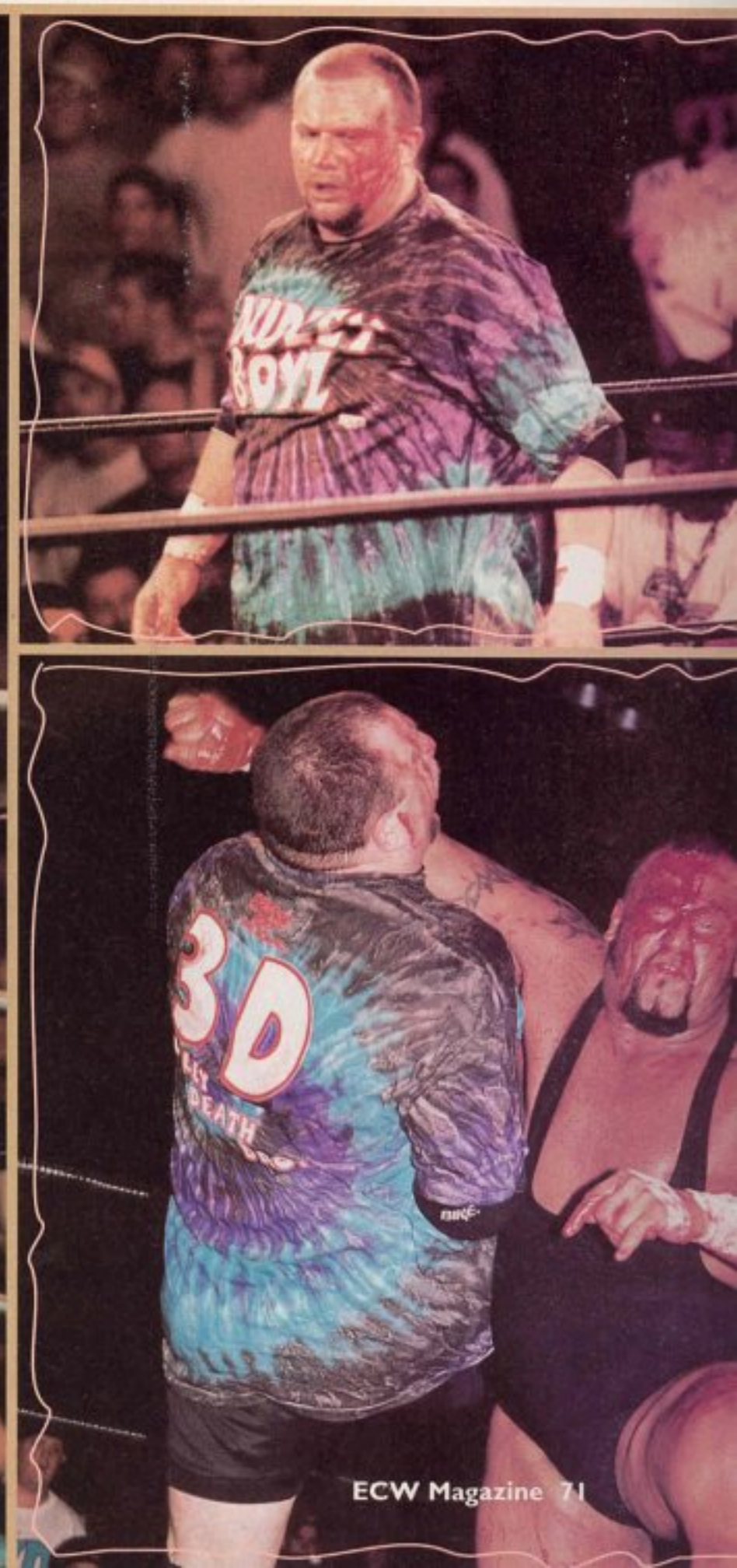
that, Buh Buh said he was going to take the ECW Title that night. That was enough to get the goat of the world champion and led to his second title defense of the evening, this time against Buh Buh.

Taz stormed out and went after Buh Buh, throwing him out of the ring. He took the microphone and said the match was under FTW rules and that falls counted anywhere. It didn't take long for the match to head into the crowd, with several loud chants of "over here" coming from the fans. Taz and Buh Buh fought through the crowd and into the arena's lobby. Along the way, Taz got busted open and his face became a





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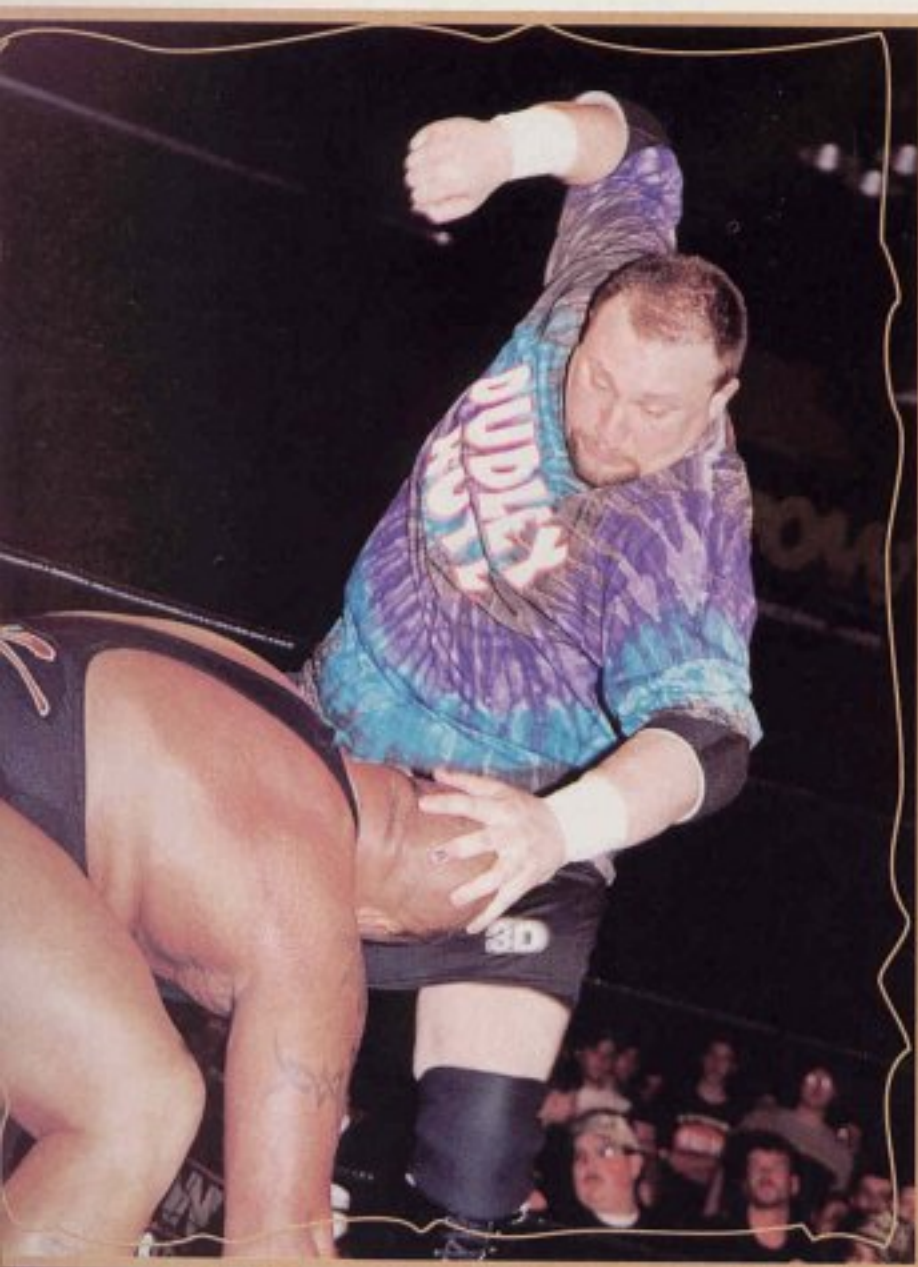
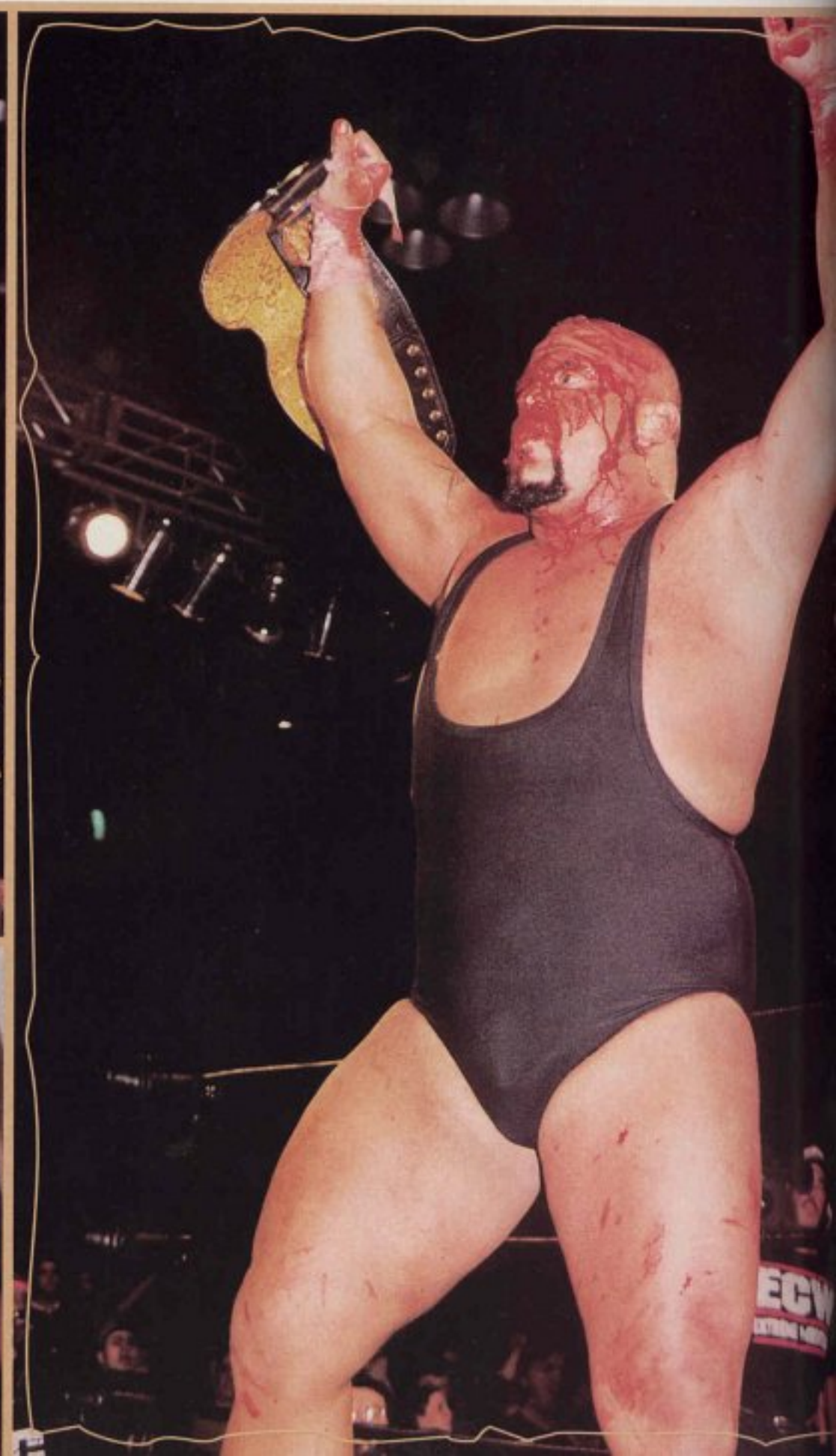
Taz vs. Buh Buh Ray Dudley

bloody mess. Buh Buh was in control until Taz came back with a super Tazplex as Buh Buh climbed the ropes. D-Von came out and hit an inverted DDT on Taz, but Buh Buh could get only a two-count. Buh Buh got another two with a side slam.

D-Von and Sign Guy then put two tables in the ring for their brother. Buh Buh set them up in the corners, but before he could use them, Taz stood toe-to-toe with him. When referee John Finnegan tried to get between them, they threw him through a table. Pee Wee Moore then came out to replace Finnegan.

Buh Buh got a few near falls with help from D-Von, but then Taz came back with a T-Bone Tazplex on Buh Buh through a table for a two-count. Taz finally got the Tazmission, and Buh Buh tapped out in 12:21 to end the show. ecw





BUMPS

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by Donny Laible

Paul E. Gets It Right

I'm not sucking up to Mr. Paul E. Heyman.

There's no need for me to do that. It's H&S Media (the publisher of ECW Magazine) and not Paul E. that signs, seals and delivers my check for work on this page.

With that said, Extreme Championship Wrestling has a jewel at its helm. Unfortunately for the business as a whole, there aren't enough students like Paul E. heading into the next millennium.

Paul E. Heyman (left, with the legendary Fabulous Kangaroo, Al Costello) has helped make the promotion a major influence in the wrestling industry.

During the past few months, a plethora of innuendoes, exaggerations, hearsay, gossip and misleading statements has obscured the truth surrounding the stability and long-term prognosis of ECW. Much like cancer cells attacking healthy tissue, these rumors are eating away at the real story.

To his credit, the 34-year-old patriarch of hardcore hasn't hung a "Gone Fishin' " sign on his office door to avoid facing those people who take issue with him. Respectfully spoken of as the chief cook, bottle washer and locker room lawyer of ECW, Heyman has his plate full of things to do in order for his company's rudder to stay on course.

OK, so why is Paul E. unique as opposed to other, more conglomerate-correct leaders of major league wrestling companies? Simply put, he's a fan. The guy trusts his gut instincts and runs with ideas. During the past 30 years, how many fans have come from sitting in the audience to being THE man booking and calling the shots for a nationally touring, syndicated-television-showing, pay-per-view airing, full-time promotion?

Only the World Wrestling Federation's Jim Cornette had the grapefruits to go through the same metamorphosis from fan to company leader on a grand scale. So why have those who want to write off Paul E. continued to be disappointed?

Growing up in Scarsdale, N.Y., Paul E. was exposed to the WWF ever since he could remember. He'll tell you that since he was 13, wrestling was his passion. It was what he wanted to do. A fan club for then-WWF managerial heavyweights Freddie Blassie, Lou Albano and the Grand Wizard kept him enthused and busy. Next, his fascination with the business progressed to taking ringside photographs and writing for and editing newsstand trade magazines. Notice the pattern?

Then came THE dare from Bam Bam Bigelow in 1986 to become a manager. In February 1987, Paul E. Dangerously, manager of the Motor City Madmen, was born.

During the next dozen years, Heyman became a star. He developed star talent such as the Sandman and Raven and surrounded himself with gifted professionals such as Taz, Saturn and Sabu. Heyman adopted ECW and had the determination to build it from an East Coast promotion to a major international influence in the wrestling industry.

As in all businesses, detours and crashes happen and enemies are made. But detractors take note: Hold off on writing any more death notices. ECW has a fan in charge. ecw

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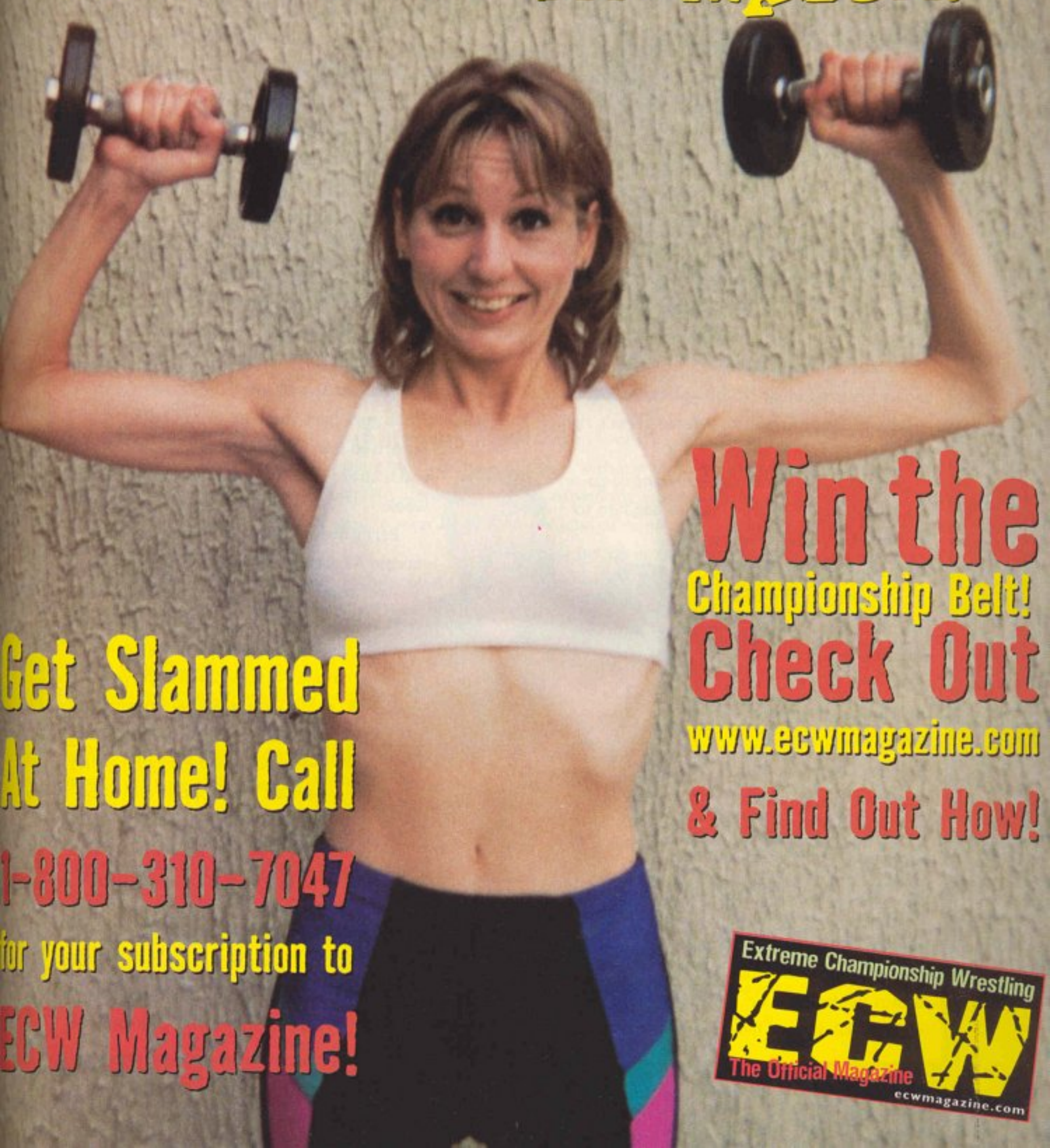
Anybody Can Be the Next ECW Heavyweight Champion!



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by Bill Alfonso

Electric RVD–Lynn Match Brings Back Memories

Some nights in this business you remember a lot longer than others. Last night was one of those nights.

It's Monday morning, not even 12 hours after the May 16, 1999, Hardcore Heaven pay-per-view. I'm still wired from the Rob Van Dam vs. Jerry Lynn match. The match was so on that it kept me up all night. What a match that was. It kind of reminds me of the electricity of a 1993 World Wrestling Federation tour I was on in Europe that covered nine cities and five countries. The main event of the shows featured Hulk Hogan against Yokozuna, and guess who got the nod to referee? That's right, it was me.

Actually, Hogan didn't even want to go on this tour. Vince McMahon had to beg him to go. McMahon offered Hogan anything he wanted. That's why I keep thinking of Van Dam when I think of Hogan. Van Dam is the whole F'N show now, and back then Hogan was the whole show. (Well, maybe I wouldn't say the whole show, but Hogan was red hot and probably the most recognized wrestler on the planet.) So Hogan agreed to go, but of course he demanded a certain amount of money and that his nephew Horace Boulder and buddy Brutus Beefcake be on the tour as well. McMahon gave him whatever he wanted and they were all on the tour.

It was really a hell of tour. You had Terry Taylor, Jim Duggan, The Steiner Brothers, Mr. Fuji, The Samoans, Owen Hart (God bless him), Papa Shango, Tatanka and many others, and we sold out every night. I'll tell you what though, the electricity I felt when I walked through that curtain with Hogan out there was just like the electricity I felt when I walked through the curtain last night.

Lynn and Van Dam looked worse than Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali after the "Thrilla In Manila." That brought back memories of some truly hardcore matches I refereed in the '80s. It was Harley Race defending the NWA world title against Barry Windham at the Miami Convention Center in 1984. Those guys beat the crap out of each other. I was surprised Barry was able to compete in that match after what had happened the previous week.

Barry, Steve Keirn and I were traveling across Alligator Alley in the Everglades, and we stopped because we all had guns. Everyone was a gun freak back then because we were making so much money that we didn't know what to do with it. So we bought toys like radar detectors, guns, boots –everyone had everything they wanted. We stopped and Steve said, "Watch me shoot that sign," and, bam, he shot the sign with a 9mm. Only he hit the pole and it ricocheted, and the bullet hit Barry right in the leg. Barry went down, and we were all like, "Holy s---, Barry Windham is shot!" We couldn't believe it. You could see the bullet in his leg. It was maybe an inch in his

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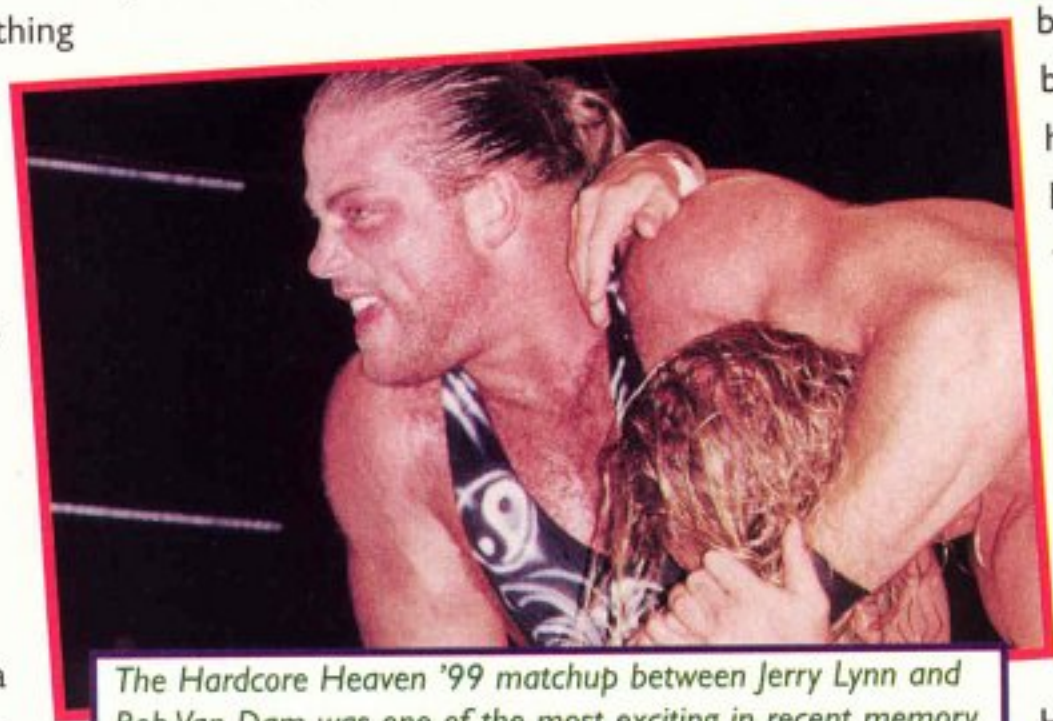
flesh, so we dug it out, taped him up and he worked that night.

The next week he had the match against Race and I thought, "Damn, no way," but Barry did it. They went 40-something minutes and they were brutalizing each other. Harley Race was a traditional style wrestler, and Barry was a young, handsome, big-draw guy. He kind of reminds me of Van Dam back in the day, I mean, it's a different era now, so it's hard to compare, but Barry was hot then. It was a hardcore match because Harley would make the young guys really pay the price for going after his belt. He literally beat the s--- out of them. That's exactly what Rob Van Dam and Jerry Lynn did.



The Hardcore Heaven '99 matchup between Jerry Lynn and Rob Van Dam was one of the most exciting in recent memory.

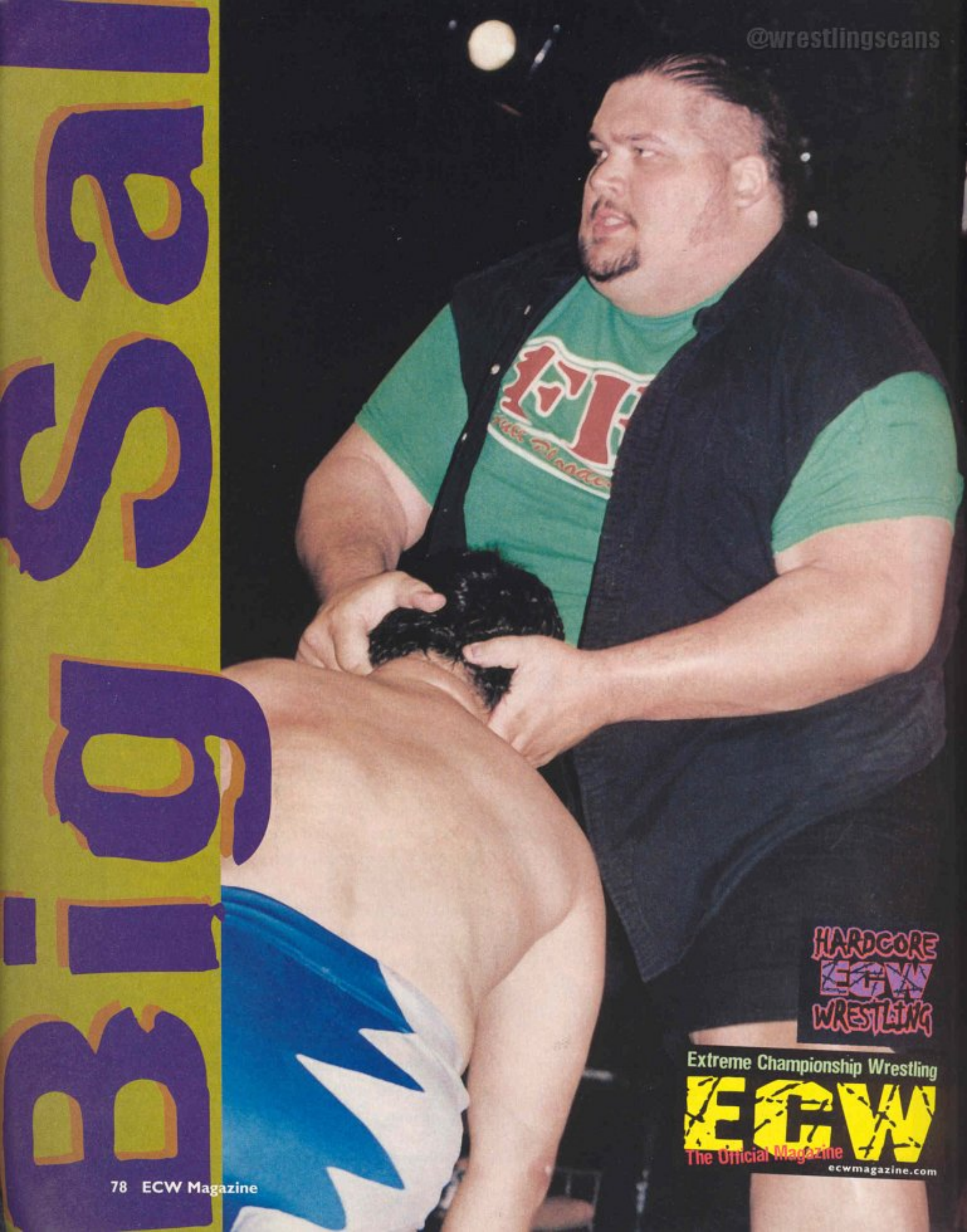
Last night's Hardcore Heaven match could have gone either way. Lynn really took Van Dam to the limit. It was such a fast-paced, back-and-forth match that it brought me back to a match that I refereed early in my career. It was Dory Funk Jr. against Mike Graham. Mike could wrestle his ass off, and Dory Funk was Dory Funk, if you know what I mean. This guy could wrestle 60 minutes, even 90 minutes, which you hardly ever see anymore. Now all the matches last less than half that time. Everyone is under half-a-million-dollar contracts and they take their job for granted, so they don't put in 100 percent. It wasn't like that when I started. Mike and Dory wrestled 60 minutes to a time-limit draw, and then they wanted to continue for another 30 minutes.

Watching those guys wrestle, I realized that I needed to start getting in shape. I started running 3-4 miles a day and going to the gym just to keep up with those guys. I got a little fat in recent years because I'm a manager, but as soon as I hooked up with Van Dam I had to go back to the gym just to keep up with him. Well, I'm about to stop typing because my elbow is killing me. Jerry Lynn tagged me hard with that chair last night. He threw that chair at me like I owed him $1,000 and wasn't going to pay him back. If I didn't block it with my arm, I would have been knocked out. Instead my elbow is black and blue.

It kind of reminds me of when Terry Funk took on Jack Brisco in Sarasota, Fla. Terry was getting so carried away because he is so hardcore that he forgot about the rules. So I had to go enforce them. Next thing I know Terry pushed me down on my ass. He nailed me with his branding iron in the head so hard that I needed to get stitches. He knocked me out cold and I don't even remember the end of the match.

That's it from The WhistleBlower. As you can see, I have a million and one stories to write about everyone in the wrestling business. Last night brought back some of those memories. There is no telling what Sabu and Rob Van Dam will do before the next issue of ECW Magazine comes out to bring back some more old memories and to create some new ones. I guess you'll just have to read next month's column to find out. ecw

Big Ess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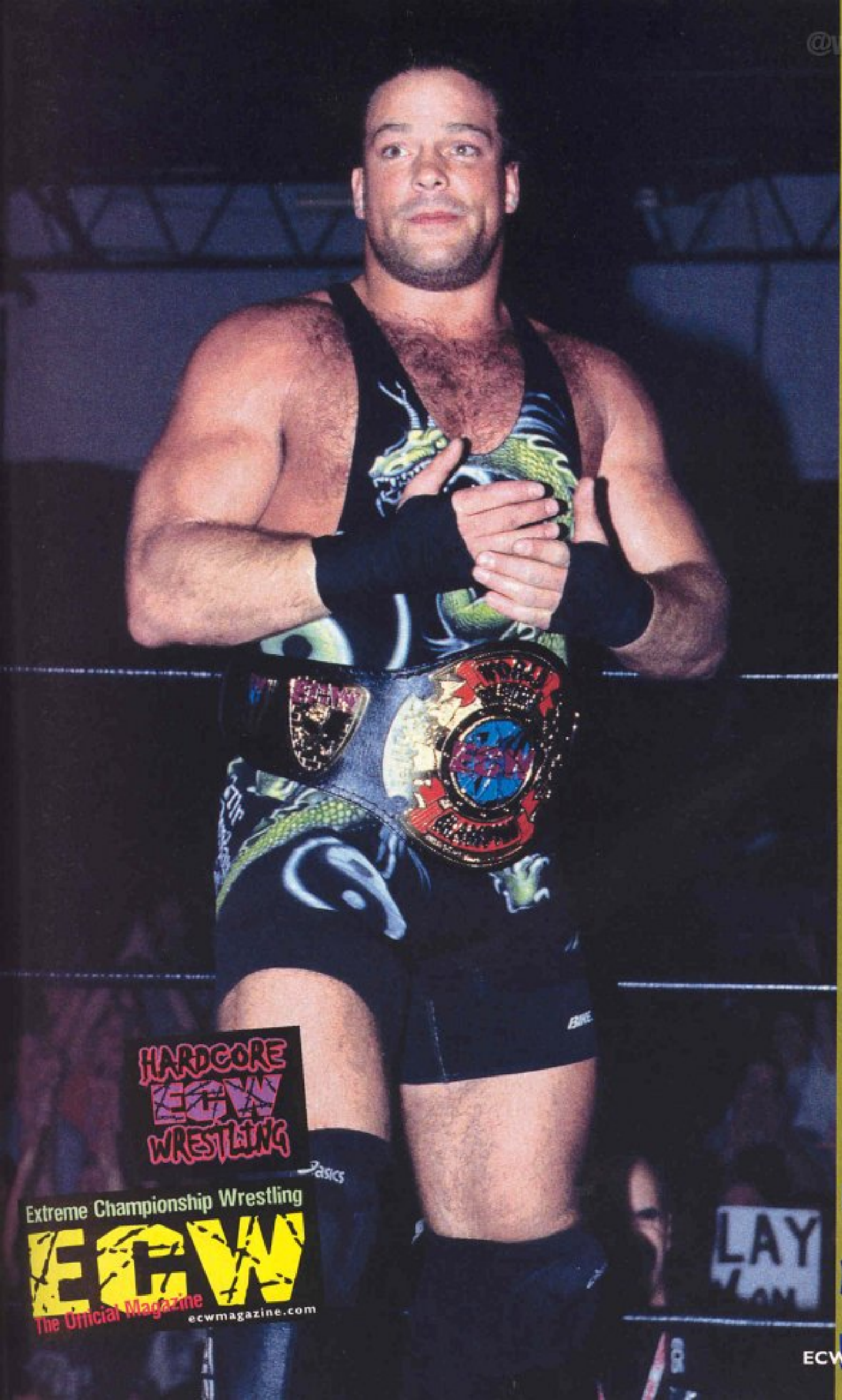

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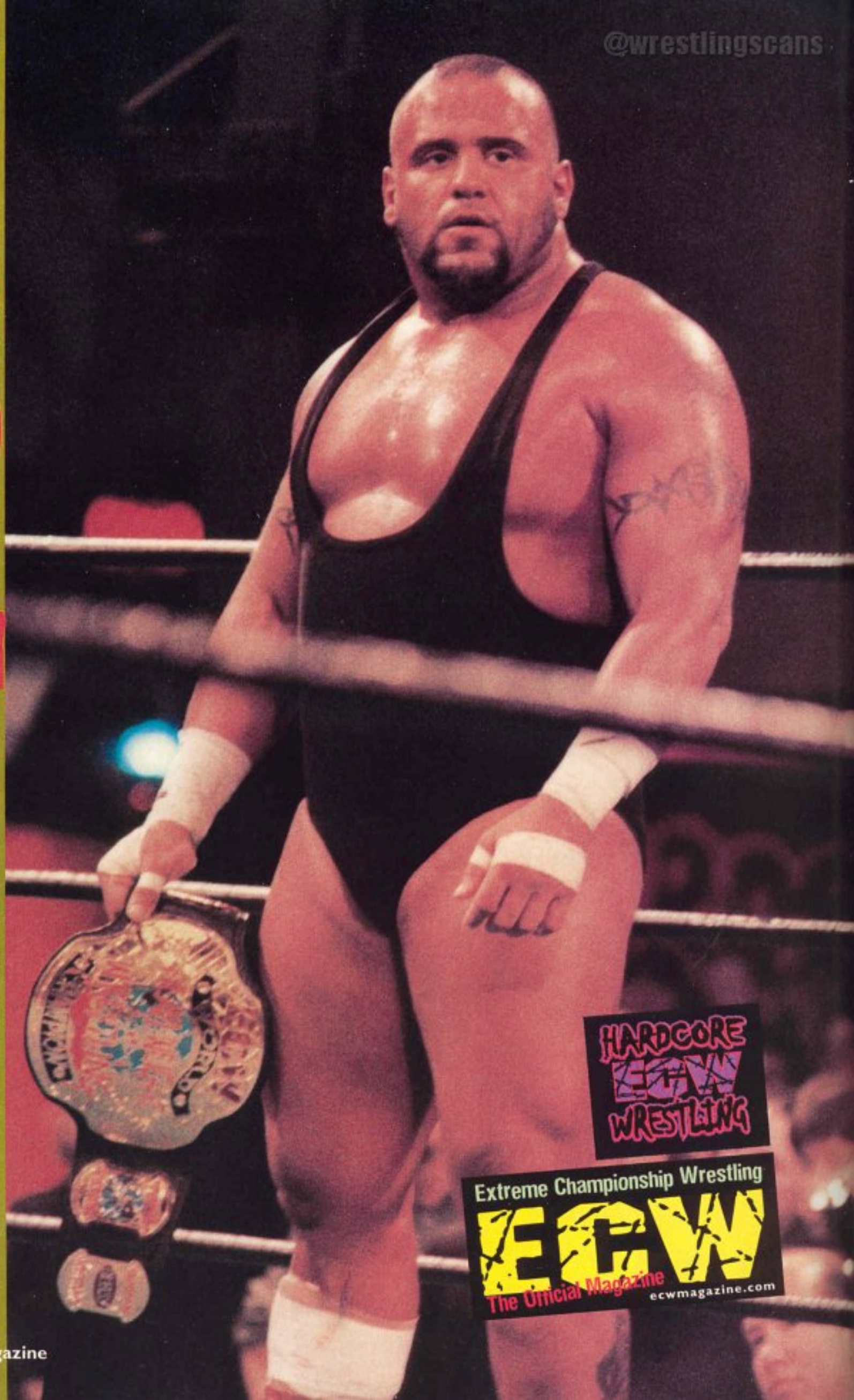
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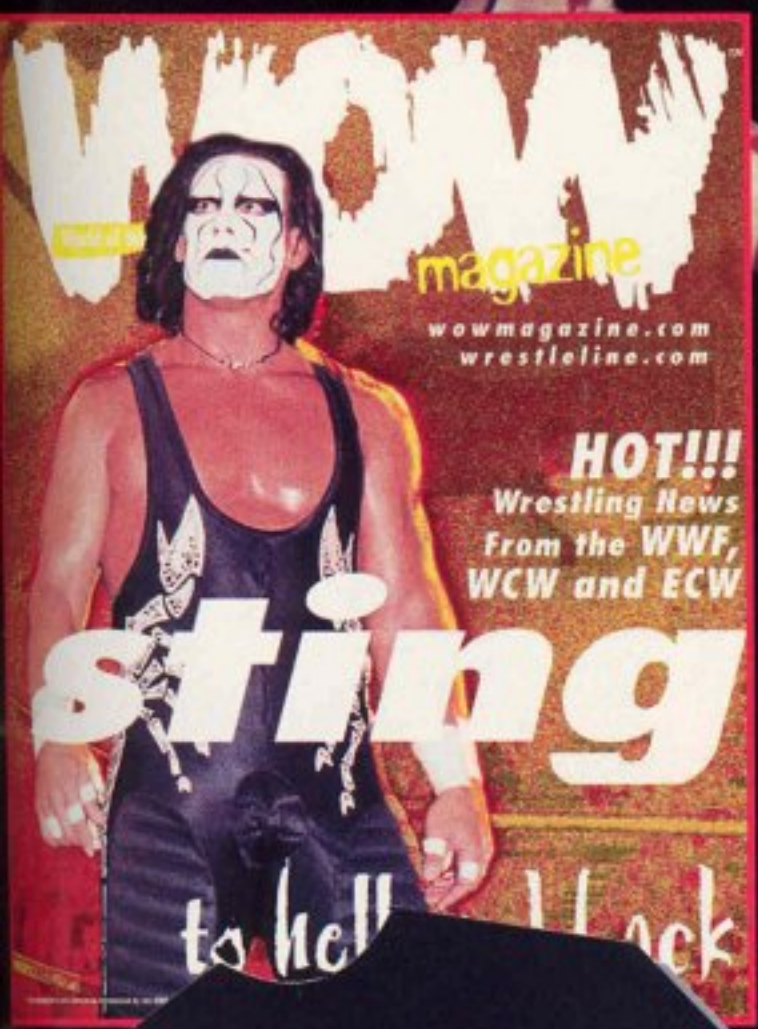

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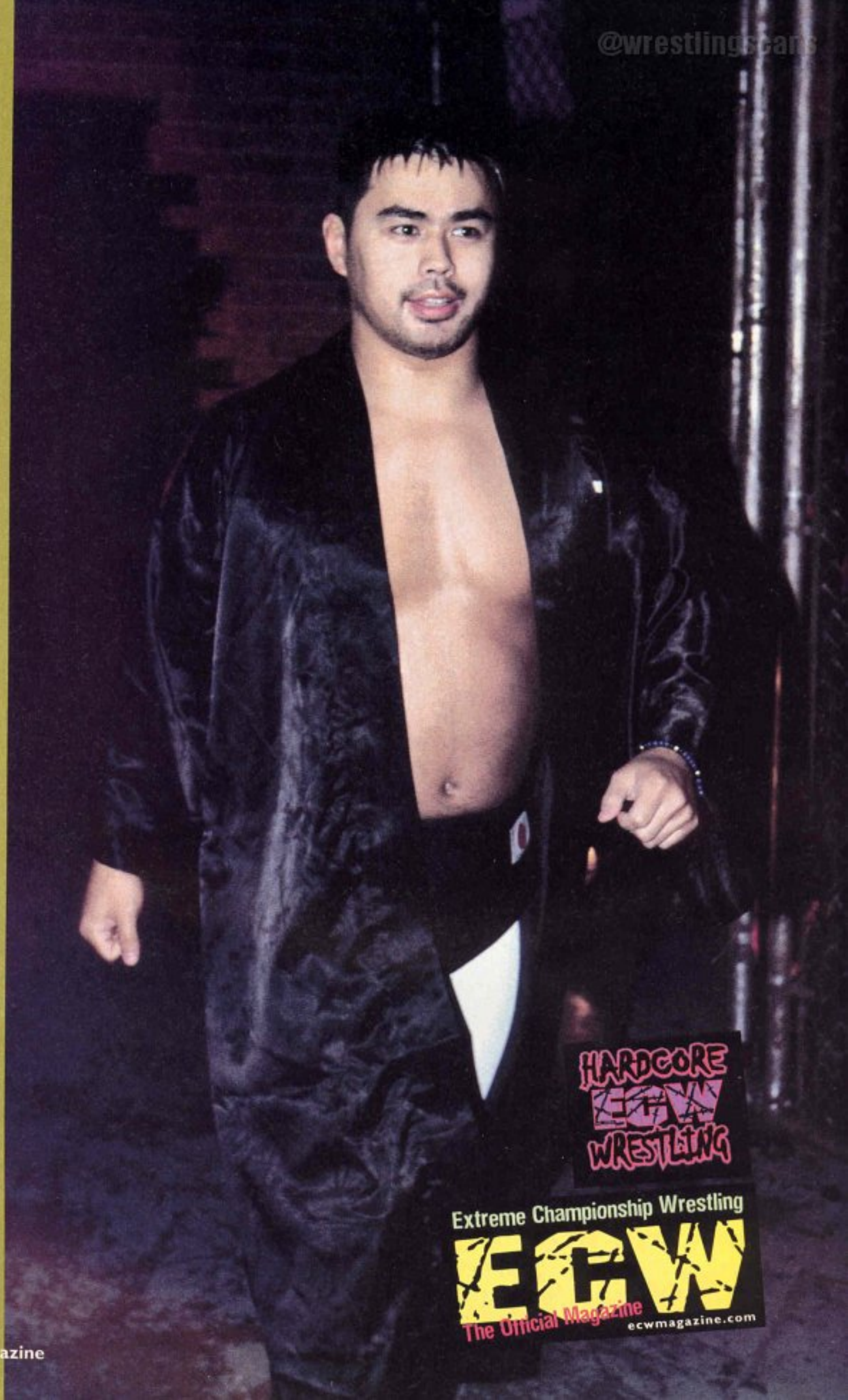

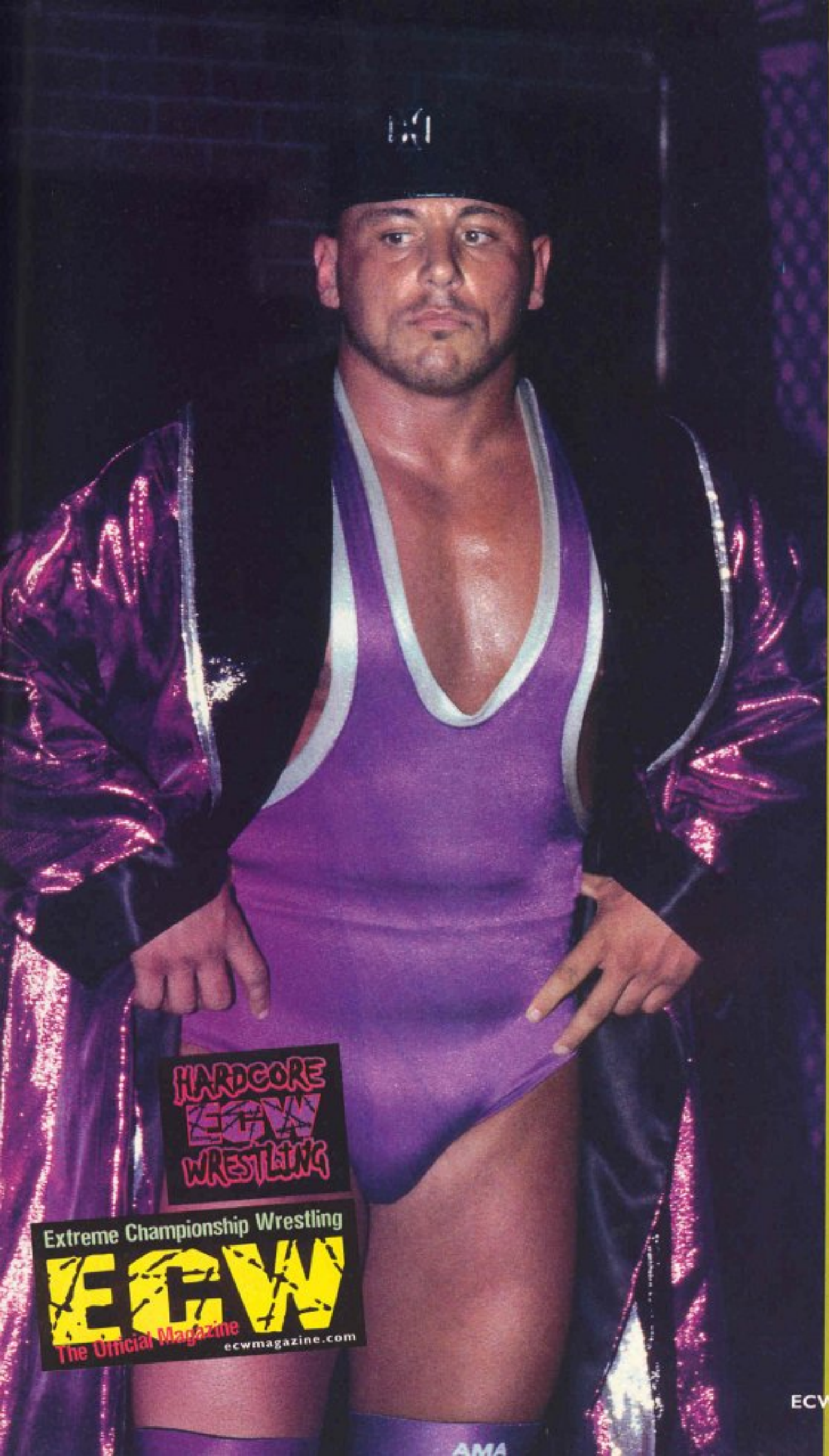

Skull Vol Kfush

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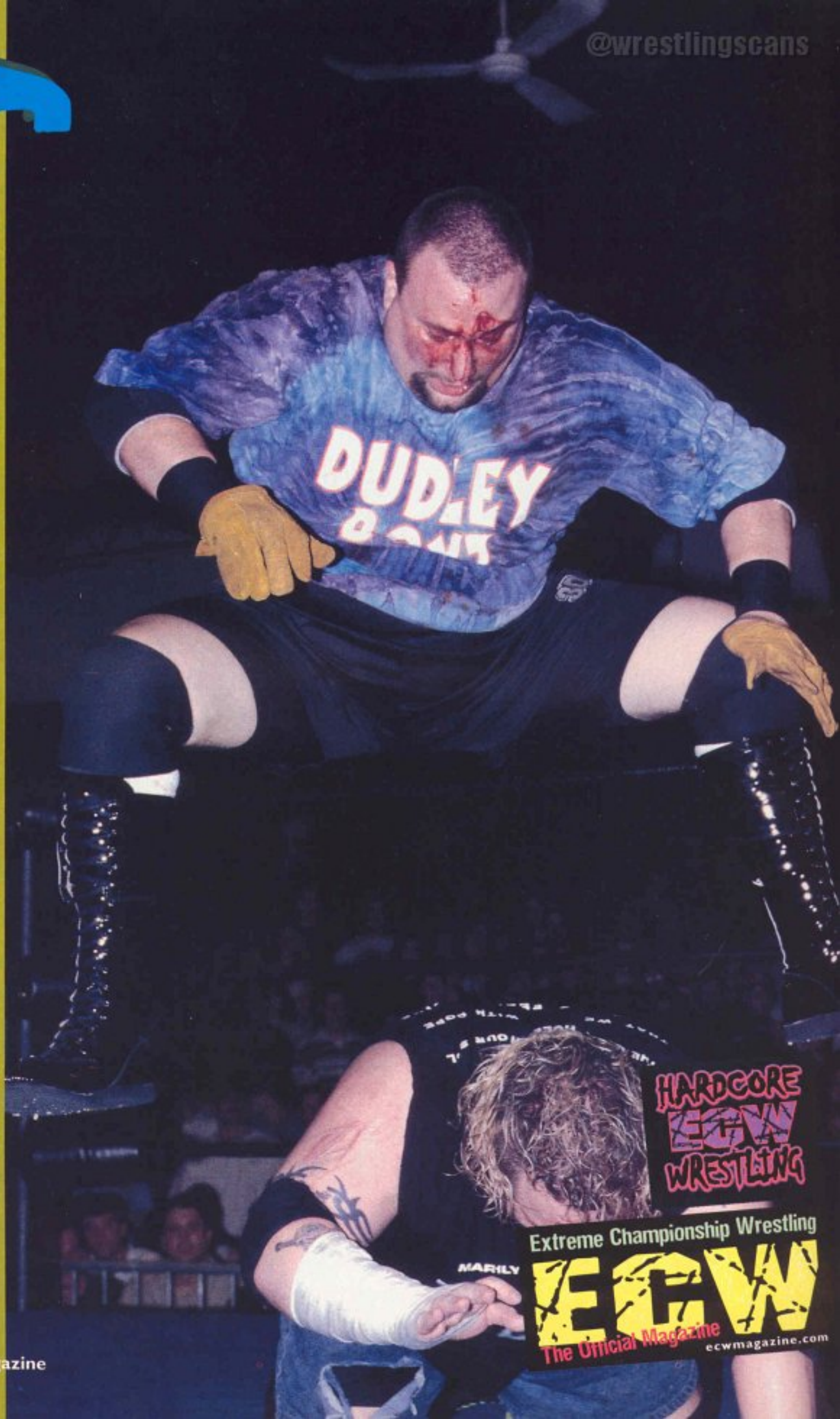
Buh Bay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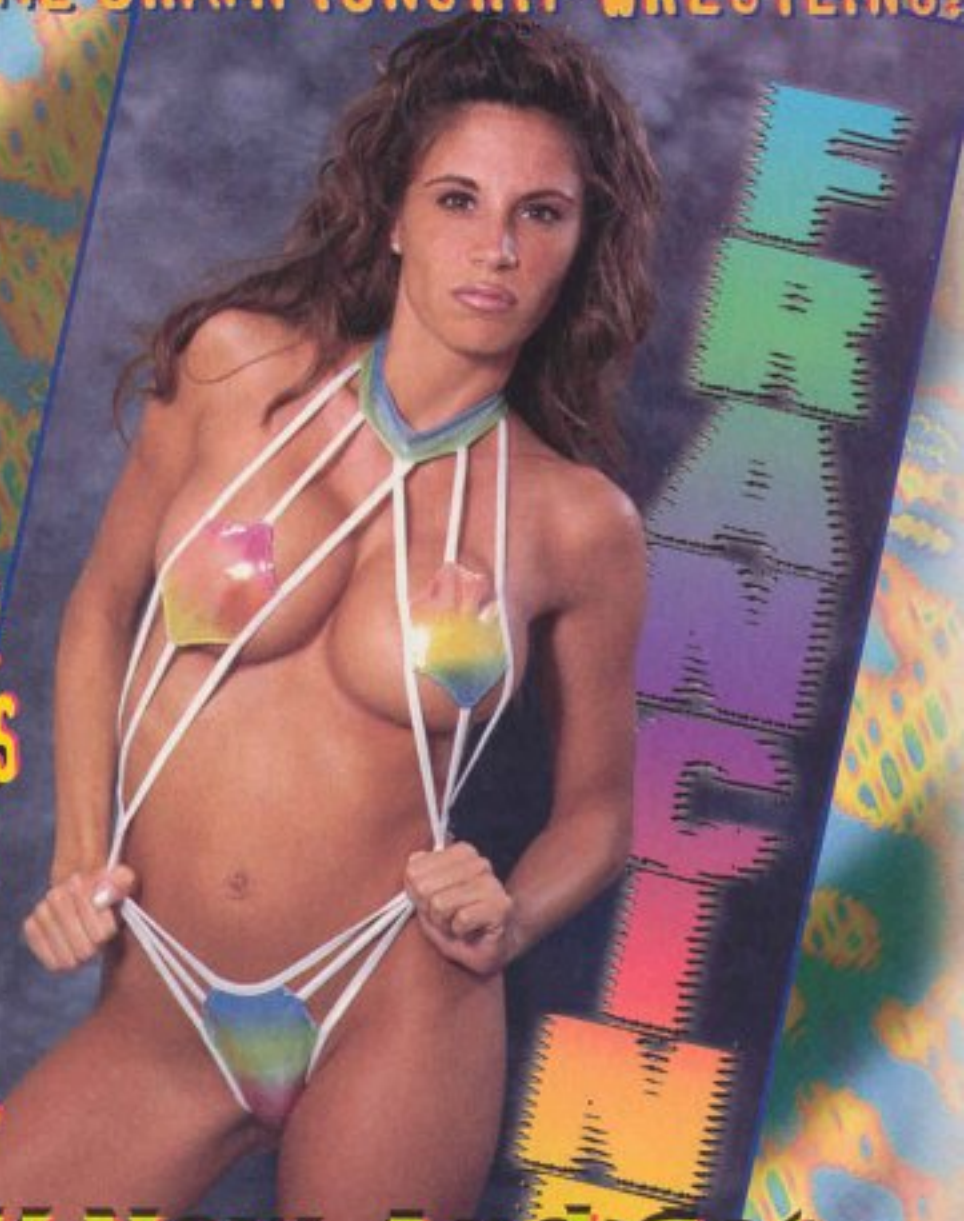

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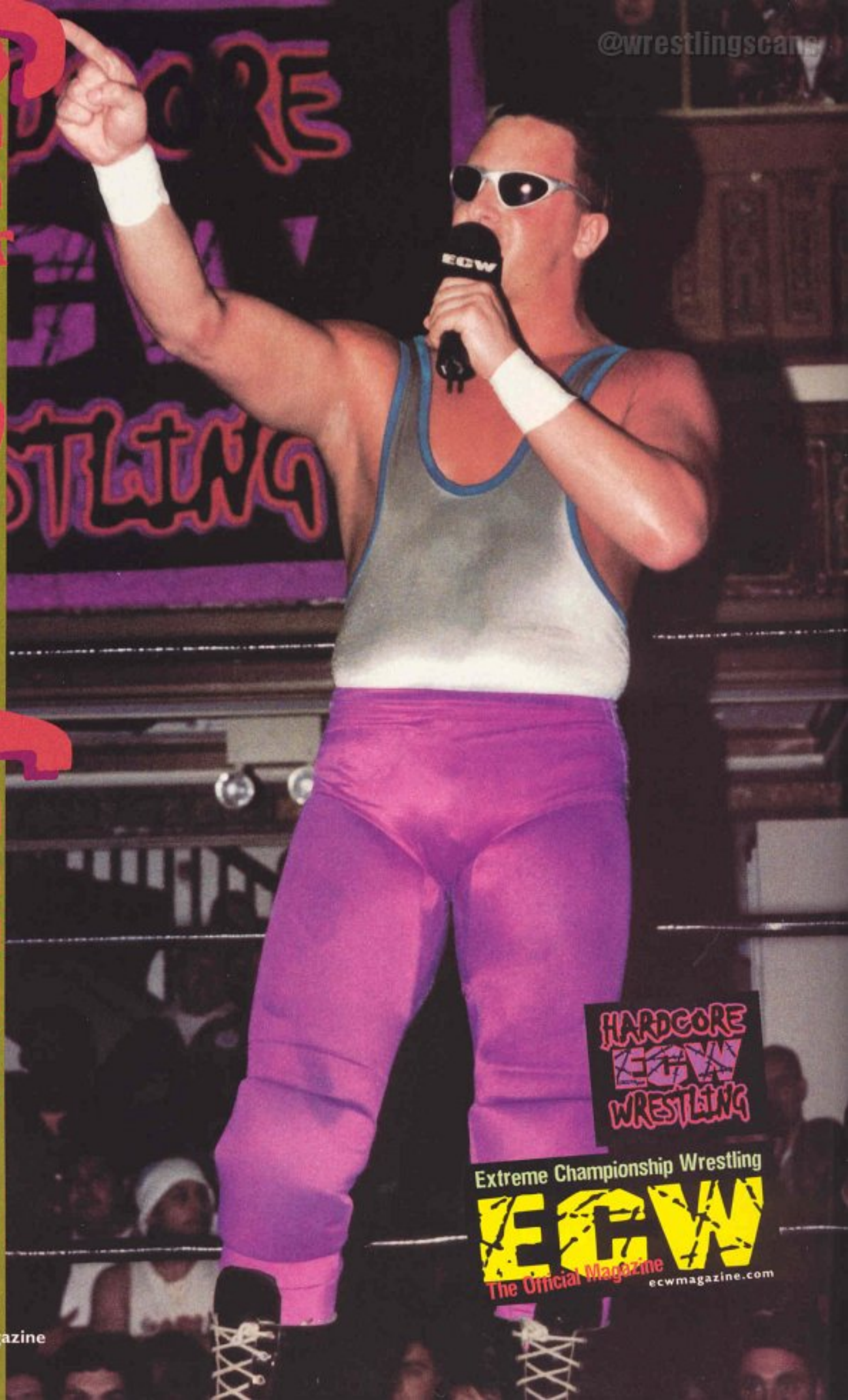
NOVA

Danny Doring



NEW ECW...BEST BLOOD YET!!! NEW

ALL TAPES 4 HOURS LONG - WITH MANY MORE MATCHES – TOO MANY TO LIST!

ECW 42 Gangstas vs. Dudleys vs. Eliminators (3 way dance. Bloody)-Shane Douglas vs. Balls Mahoney,Tommy Dreamer vs. Louie Spicolli (bloodbath),Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Taz + Chris Candido - Balls Mahoney vs. Sandman - Taz vs. Spike Dudley - Raven + Stevie Richards vs. Terry Funk + Tommy Dreamer (Wild)

ECW 43 Raven vs. Dreamer (clips) - Raven vs. Tommy Dreamer (final match ever between the two.Watch as Jerry Lawler invades the ECW Arena and attacks Tommy Dreamer and destroys the whole ECW locker room in one of the best matches ever in ECW history. Wild bloodbath!!!!!!) - Sabu vs. Taz - Taz vs. Shane Douglas (Title change) - Tommy Dreamer invades USWA TV - Dudleys vs. Eliminators - Tommy Dreamer vs. Louie

ECW TV 44 Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Pitbull #2 - Chris Candido vs. Tom Prichard - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer + Sandman (Jerry Lawler and Jim Cornette invade the ECW Arena) Jim Cornette destroys Dreamer in the groin and sends him to the hospital!!!!!!! - Taz vs. Louie Spicolli - Lance Storm vs. Tracey Smothers - Gangstas vs. Dudleys (cage title change) - Terry Funk vs. Shane Douglas - Sabu + Rob Van Dam + Jerry Lawler vs. Tommy Dreamer + Rick Rude + Sandman (cage) clips.

ECW TV 45 Triple Threat vs. Nova + Spike + Chris Chetti - Rob Van Dam vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Terry Funk vs. Sabu (Barb wire clips) - Spike vs. Bam Bam Bigelow, Spike pins Bam Bam !!!!! - Dudleys vs. Balls Mahoney + Axl Rotten - Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer

ECW TV 46 Shane Douglas vs. Al Snow - Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer - Sabu vs. Bobby Duncum Jr. - Sabu vs. Tommy Dreamer - Kronus vs. Tracey Smothers - Shane Douglas vs. Axl Rotten - (Sabu attacks the Sandman with bottle over his head. Bloody!!!) - Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer - Jerry Lynn vs. Chris Candido - Taz vs. Tommy Dreamer - Kronus vs. Dick Dudley

ECW TV 47—FBI vs. Balls + Axl Rotten - Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Spike (rematch) - Dudleys vs. New Jack + Kronus - Shane Douglas vs. Phil Lafon - Sandman vs. Sabu (Sabu throws fire into Sandman's eyes and blinds him) - Justin Credible vs. Jerry Lynn - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Rob Van Dam + Fonzie vs. Tommy Dreamer + Beulah - Tommy Dreamer vs. Shane Douglas

ECW 48 Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Shane Douglas (Title Change) - Sabu vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Sasuke vs. Justin Credible - FBI vs. New Jack and Kronus - Balls + Axl Rotten vs. Dudleys - Shane Douglas + Chris Candido vs. Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon - Taz vs. Rob Van Dam - Sabu vs. Shane Douglas vs. Tommy Dreamer (3 way dance) – Justin Credible vs. Chris Chetti – Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Taz + Tommy Dreamer (Triple Threat split up)

ECW 49 Axl Rotten vs. D-von Dudley vs. Kronus vs. Tracey Smothers (4 way dance) - Taz vs. Buh Buh Ray Dudley - Sabu vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Spike vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Rob Van Dam vs. Al Snow - FBI vs. Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon - Justin Credible vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Steve Richards vs. Chris Chetti - Balls + Axl Rotten vs. Chris Candido + Lance Storm vs. Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon (3 way dance)

ECW 50 Sandman vs. Sabu (Tables and ladders match) - Justin Credible vs. Mikey Whipwreck (Justin breaks Mikey's leg) - Al Snow vs. Paul Diamond - FBI vs. Tommy Rogers + Jerry Lynn - Taz vs. Tommy Dreamer - Sabu vs. Sandman (Japan) - New Jack dives - Sabu + Rob Van Dam +Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon vs. Al Snow + Sandman + Taz + Tommy Dreamer

ECW 51 Taz vs. Too Cold Scorpio - Sabu Vs. Sandman - Rob Van Dam vs. Bam Bam Bigelow (Sunny's debut) - Chris Candido vs. Jerry Lynn - Balls + Axl Rotten + Tommy Dreamer vs. FBI - Justin Credible vs. Sasuke - Taz vs. Big Dick Dudley - Taz vs. Shane Douglas - Al Snow vs. Paul Diamond - Shane Douglas + Lance Storm—Chris Candido vs. Taz + Bam Bam Bigelow (Everyone turns on everyone) - Justin Credible vs. Gran Hamada

ECW 52 Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Balls + Axl Rotten - Al Snow vs. Doug Furnas - Tommy Dreamer + Sandman vs. Dudleys vs. New Jack + Kronus vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam (4 way dance) - Balls + Axl Rotten + Tommy Dreamer vs. Brakus + Sabu + Rob Van Dam - Shane Douglas vs. Chris Chetti - Taz vs. Brakus - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Sabu vs. Sandman (dueling canes match) - Rob Van Dam vs. Scorpio

ECW 53 FBI vs. Lance Storm + Chris Candido - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Scorpio + Sandman - FBI vs. Sandman + Scorpio - Tommy Dreamer vs. Justin Credible - Triple Threat vs. Lance Storm + Jerry Lynn + Chris Chetti - Sandman vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Al Snow vs. Rob Van Dam - Spike vs. Dudley

ECW 54 Justin Credible vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Rob Van Dam vs. Bam Bam Bigelow (match of the year, 5 stars title change) - Dudleys destroy Sandman + Tommy Dreamer - Sabu vs. Fatu - Balls + Axl Rotten vs. Chris Candido + Lance Storm - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Chris Candido vs. Axl Rotten - Sabu vs. Al Snow

ECW 55 PPV Highlights - Sabu vs. Chris Chetti - FBI vs. Nova + Meanie - Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Lance Storm - Rob Van Dam vs. Doug Furnas - Justin Credible vs. Jerry Lynn - Sabu vs. Danny Doring - Chris Candido vs. Jamie Dundee - Rob Van Dam vs. Mikey Whipwreck (everyone comes in - wild brawl) - Justin Credible vs. Jerry Lynn (2 out of 3 falls) - Sabu + Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm + Rob Van Dam (dream team match)

ECW 56 Sandman vs. Buh Buh Dudley (Jack Victory debut) - Jerry Lynn vs. Justin Credible (I quit match) - Tommy Dreamer brawls with the Dudleys - FBI vs. Nova + Meanie - Sabu vs. Ulf Herman - Rob Van Dam vs. Kronus - Candido + Storm vs. Mikey + Chetti - Sandman vs. Buh Buh Dudley (Beulah's brothers get jumped) - Rob Van Dam vs. Lance Storm - Kronus vs. Jamie Dundee - Shane Douglas + Chris Candido vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam

ECW 57 Balls Mahoney vs. Tanaka - Dudleys vs. Tommy Dreamer + Sandman + Onita from FMW (Wild, bloody brawl as Onita turns on Sandman and Dreamer) - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Candido + Storm (title change) - Taz vs. Lance Storm - Tanaka vs. Mike Awesome - Dudleys vs. New Jack + Kronus (wild brawl) - Tanaka vs. Tracey Smothers - Justin Credible + Jason vs. Jerry Lynn + Pablo - Taz vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Tommy Dreamer vs. Buh Buh Dudley - Sandman vs. D-von Dudley (canes match) - Spike vs. Big Dick - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Chris Candido + Lance Storm (Lance turns on Candido)

ECW 58 Tons of PPV clips from Heat Wave '98 - Tanaka + Lynn vs. Mike Awesome + Justin Credible - Sabu vs. Taz (Barely Legal) - Sabu vs. Taz (Wrestlepalooza) - Shane Douglas vs. Taz - Sabu + Van Dam vs. Hayabusa + Shinzaki (clips) - Justin vs. Lynn (clips) - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Taz vs. Sabu vs. Bam Bam Bigelow (3 way dance) - Rob Van Dam vs. Jerry Lynn

ECW 59 Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Big Sal vs. Spike - Dudleys vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam (wild brawl) - Jerry Lynn vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Tanaka vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Lance Storm vs. Chris Candido (Sunny gets involved) - Big Sal vs. Kronus - Spike vs. Big Sal - Tracey Smothers vs. Tommy Rogers - Sandman vs. Justin Credible (Bloody) - Balls vs. Tanaka - Rod Price vs. Sandman - Spike vs. One Man Gang

ECW 60 Dreamer announces Sandman left for WCW - Spike vs. One Man Gang - D-von Dudley vs. Tanaka (Bigelow comes in) - Mike Awesome video - JT Smith returns - Tommy Rogers vs. Tracey Smothers - Justin Credible vs. Tommy Dreamer (everyone comes in and brawls, streetfight, bloody) - Spike vs. 911 - Lance Storm and Tammy Lynn vs. Chris Candido + Sunny (Strip match) - Triple Threat vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam + Tanaka (major brawl) - Justin Credible vs. Balls - Tanaka + Dudleys (brawl) - Jerry Lynn vs. Chris Candido - Lance Storm vs. Rob Van Dam - Tommy Dreamer vs. Justin Credible (wild, bloody brawl with everyone)

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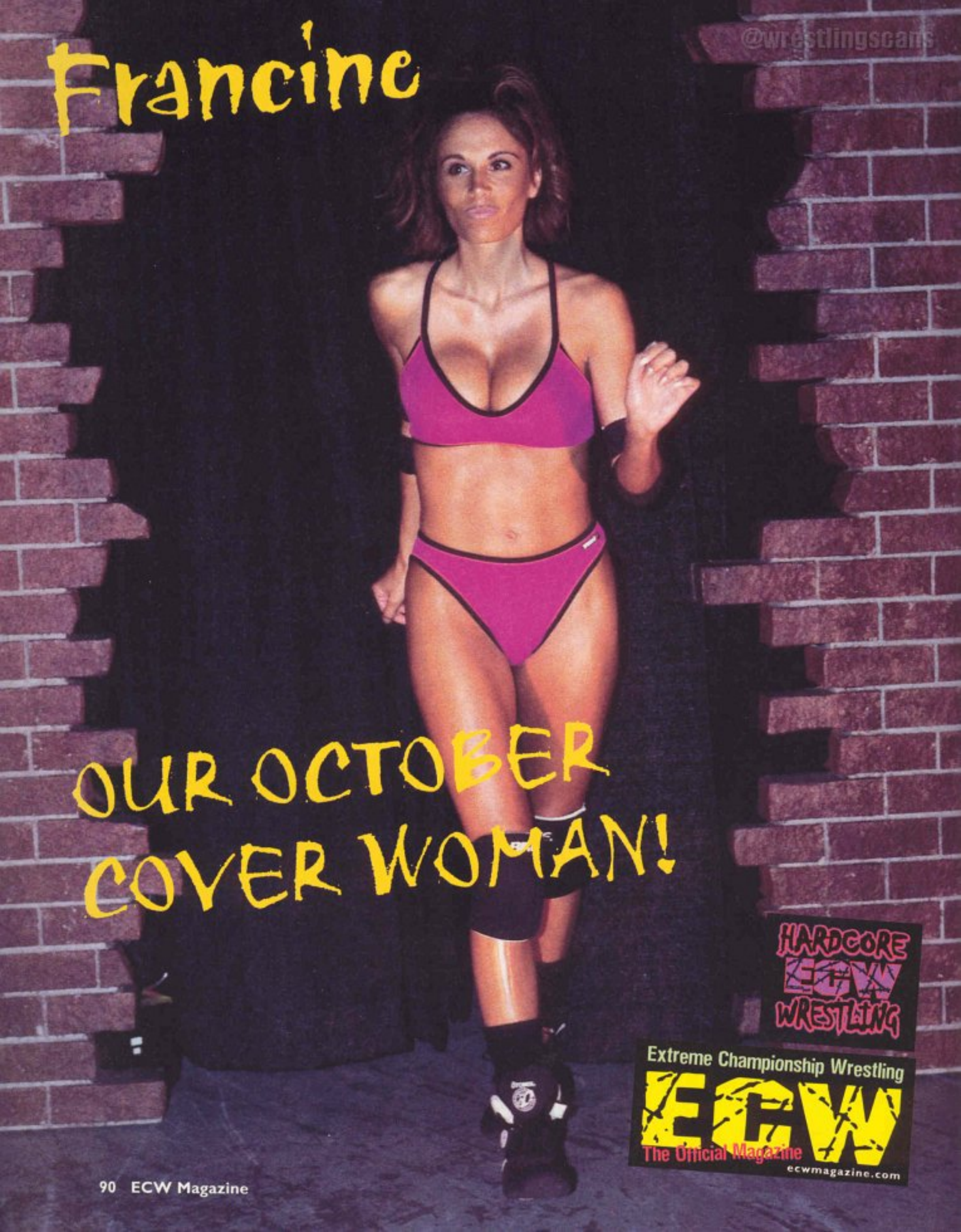
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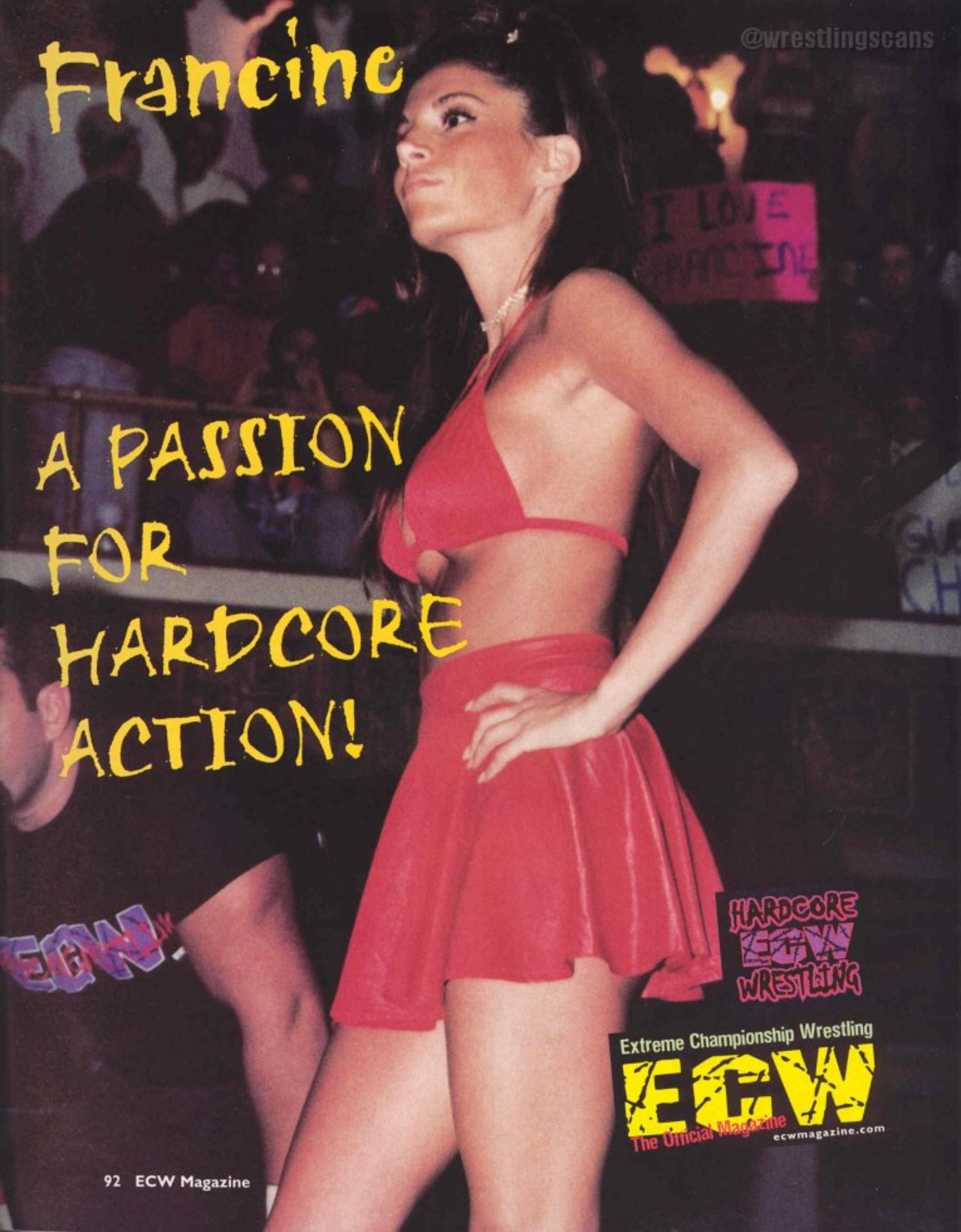

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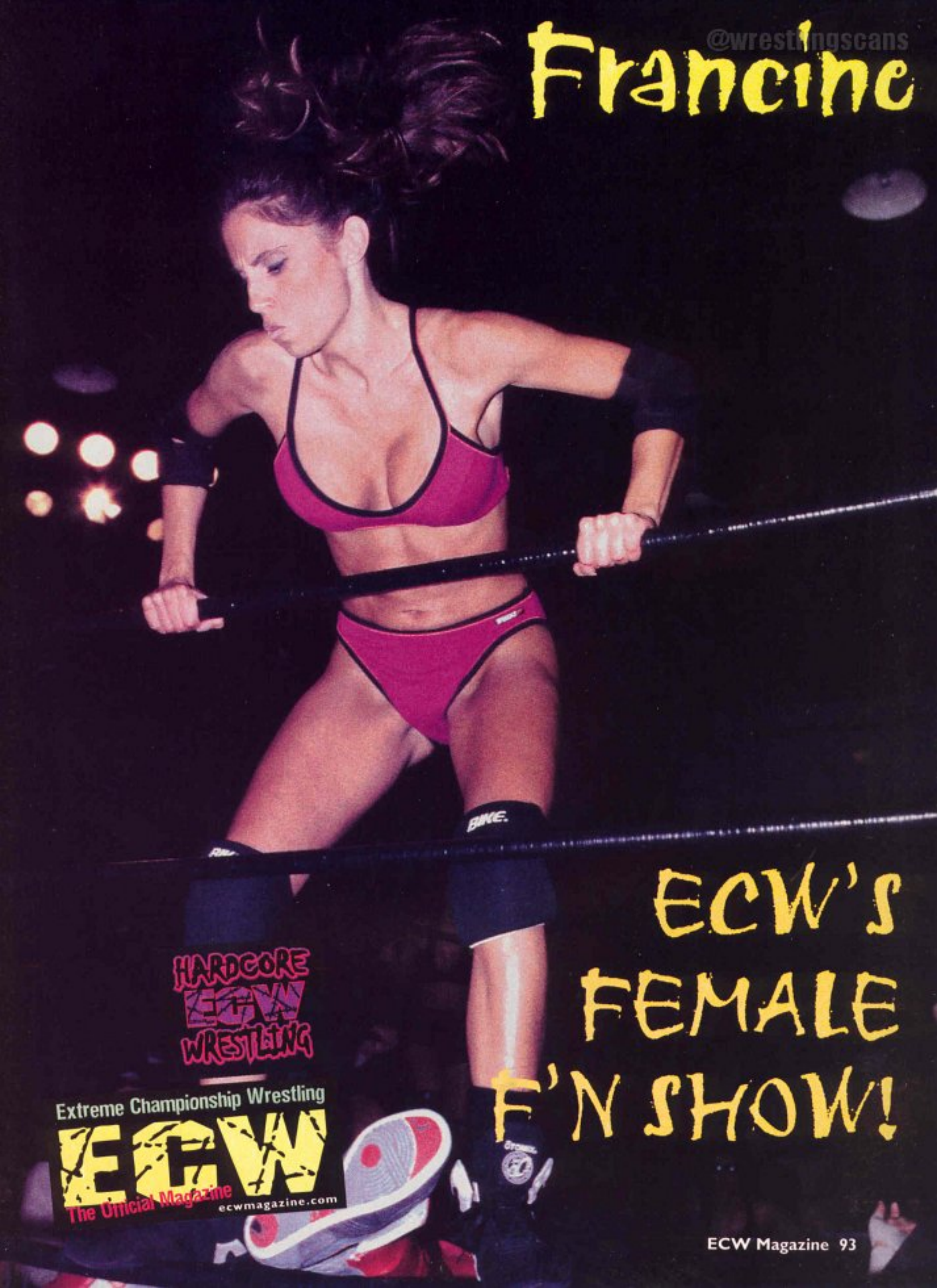

ECW'S FEMALE F'N SHOW!

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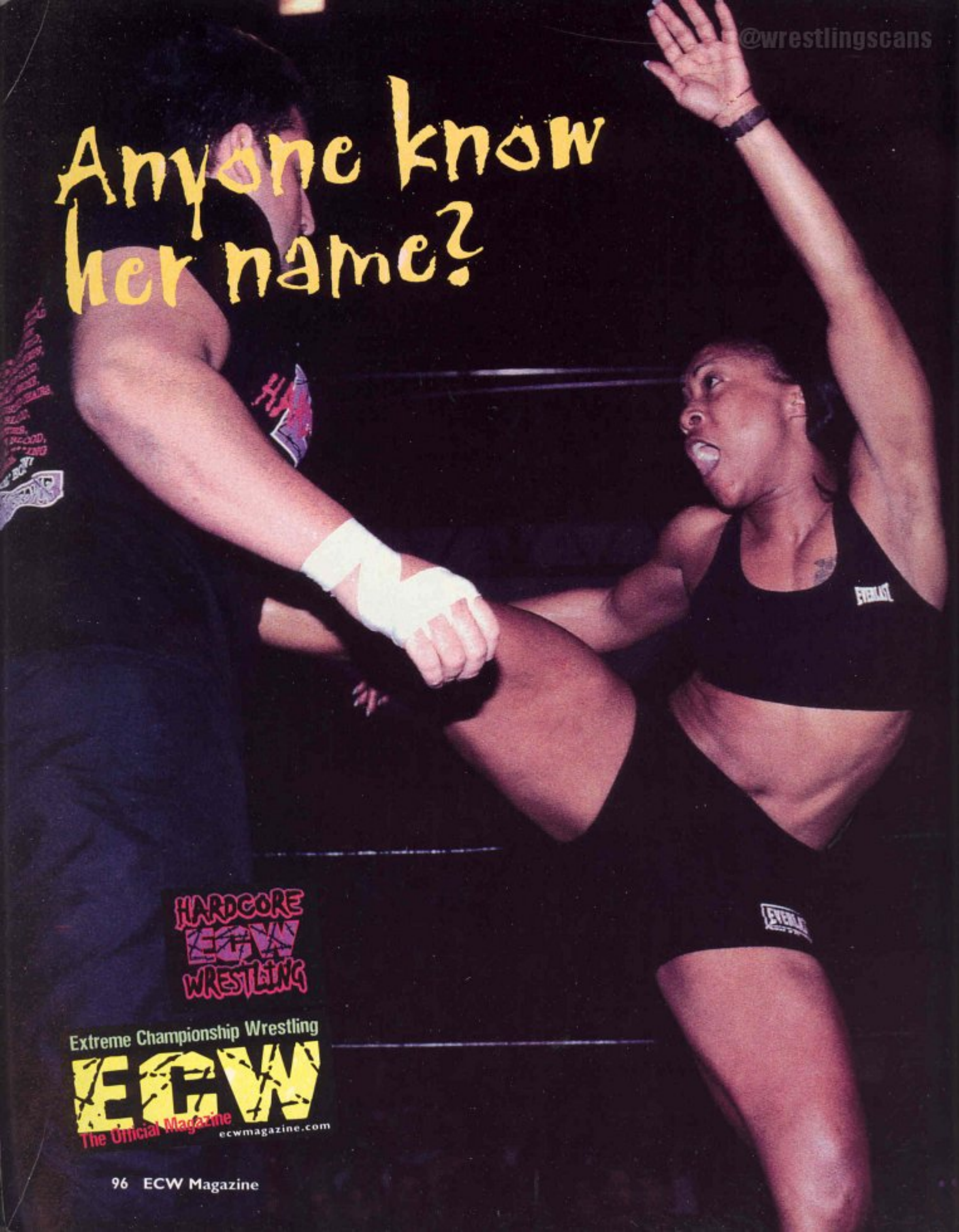
Anyone know her name?



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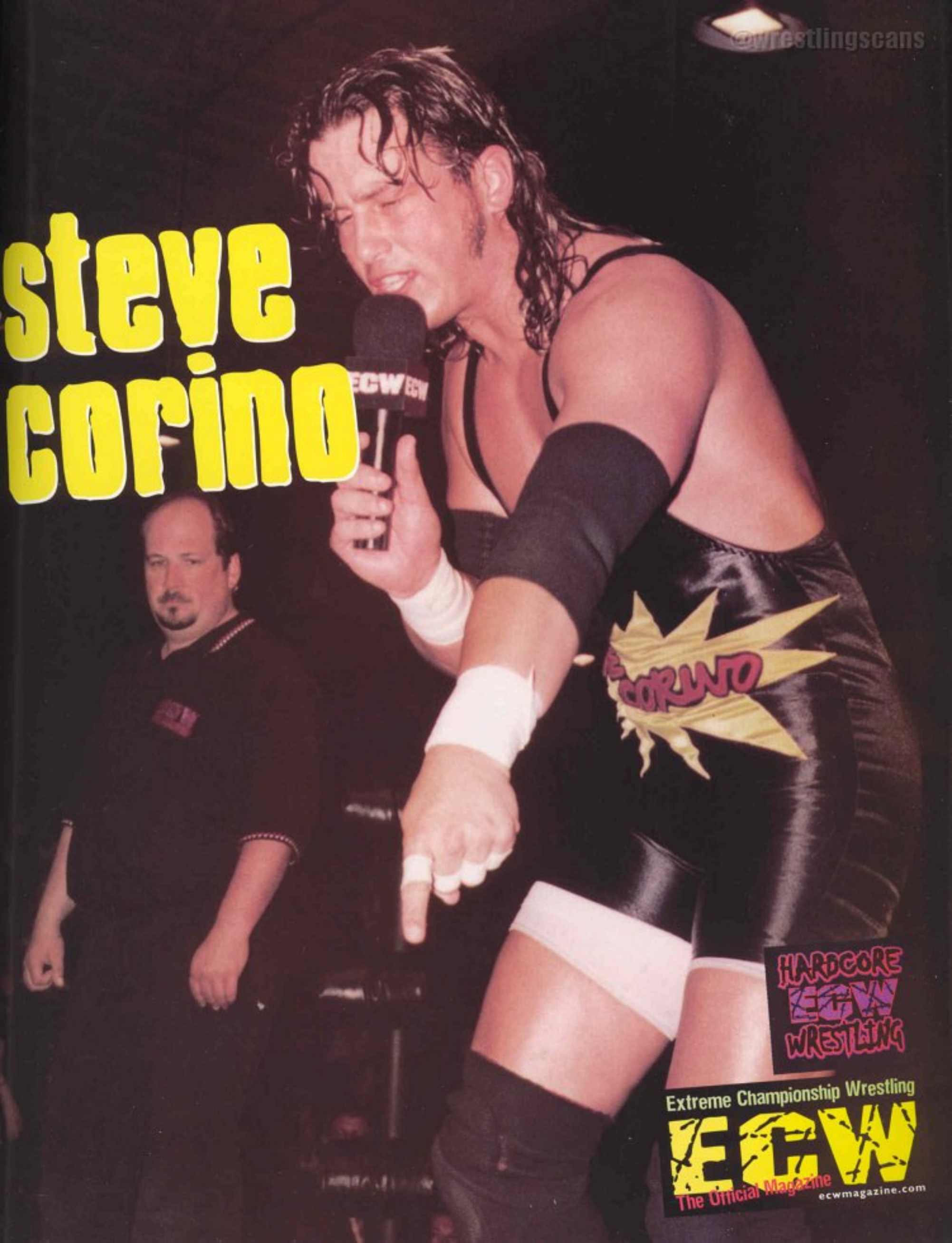
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